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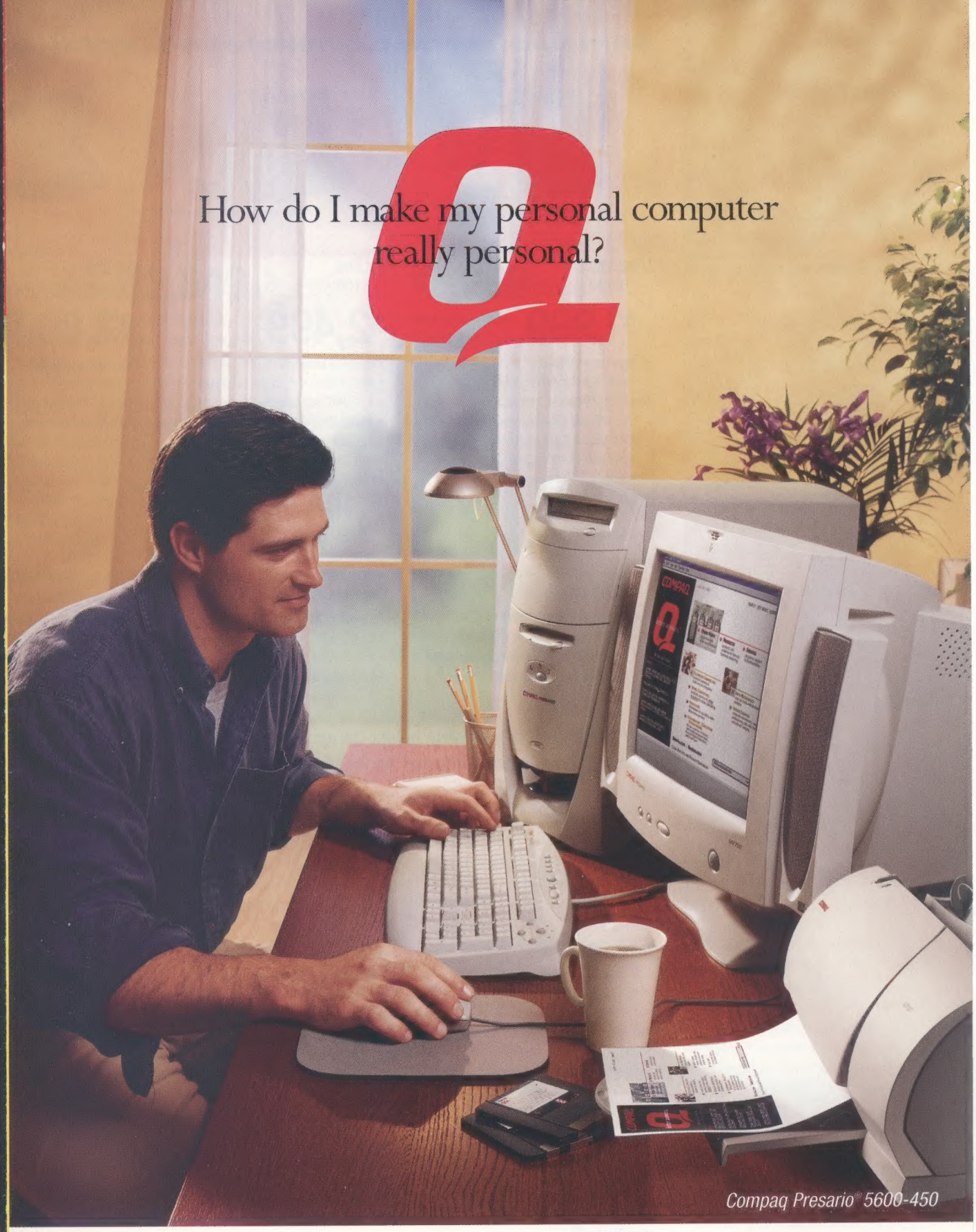

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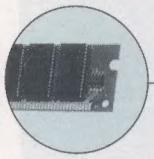

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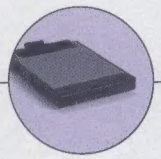

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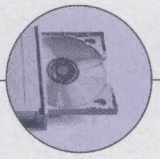

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Plus: The top 10 downloads of all time, and how free software stacks up against commercial programs. **164**

Field Test: Handheld PCs

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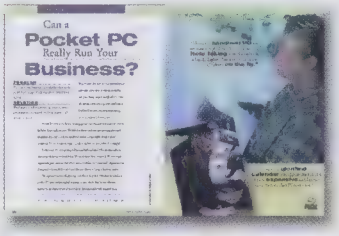

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Crossroads

Mini Removable Storage

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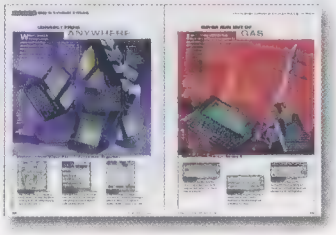
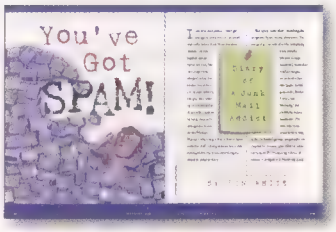


Diary of a Spam Addict

Pheromones, fake IDs, and other confessions of a junk-mail junkie. Plus: Bulletproof ways to keep spam out of your in-box forever. **212**



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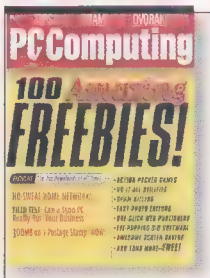

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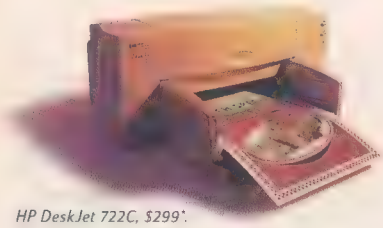

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Bill's Brainchild

Ever wonder what the world's richest man actually *does* to collect those fat paychecks? It's been six months since Bill Gates announced he was turning over day-to-day operations of Microsoft to Steve Ballmer, his longtime pal and top lieutenant. With Ballmer ensconced in the president's office, Chairman Gates says he'll devote more time to designing the future. Here's what he's talking about.

Digital Nervous System is one of Microsoft's key initiatives. Remember the name, because it could change the way your company communicates. Digital Nervous System is a way of describing essential computer-enabled links in the flow of information and using digital tools to automate routine business tasks.

What does all this nerd-speak mean? So far, most of the thinking about the Internet has been confined to connections between companies and customers. But Gates believes it may be more important to roll out the concept within companies themselves—converting all the information that a company creates to digital form so that it's passed and shared instantaneously.

As he puts it, "Virtually everything in business today is an undifferentiated commodity except how a company manages information. How you manage information determines whether you win or lose." If you want to be one of the winners, he says, you can't be using antiquated paper forms. You must convert all information to code. Are you listening, IRS?

Software simplicity is another initiative Gates is pushing. Admittedly, it's not something that's going to happen overnight. For

VITAL SIGNS By Beth Wilson

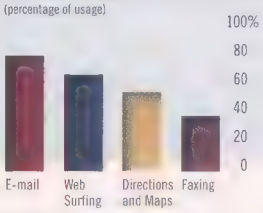
Top Sellers Windows isn't perfect. It's slow, it crashes, and the file manager is a mess. Small surprise, then, that utilities were the top-selling software programs in the business market in 1998, claiming nearly 40 percent of total sales. Operating systems were second, with just over 12 percent of the market, while software suites ranked third at 7 percent. The remainder included clip art and Internet, communications, networking, and presentation programs, among others.

Software Sales
(percentage of business market)

SOURCE: PC DATA

Behind Closed Doors At the end of 1997 only about 4,000 hotel rooms around the world offered Internet access, but Jupiter Communications predicts that by 2002 about 4 million hotel rooms in the United States alone will be online. Although business travelers are most likely to take advantage of this service, about 32 percent of these hotel guests surf the Web for entertainment purposes. Just like back at the office.

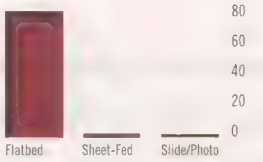
Hotel Internet Access
(percentage of usage)



SOURCE: JUPITER COMMUNICATIONS

Scanner Preferences Flatbed scanners accounted for more than 80 percent of the U.S. scanner market in October 1998 and continue to increase in sales. Why? For more and more households, scanners are just as important as printers, and flatbed scanners handle the widest range of media. But where desktop space is limited, some users opt for smaller sheet-fed scanners, which are perfectly suited for the needs of many SOHO users—often at half the price of a flatbed scanner. Slide and photo scanners sell in even smaller numbers since they can be used only for specific purposes.

Scanner Sales
(percentage of market)



SOURCE: ZD STOREBOARD

Y2K Help on the Way The millennium bug isn't just a mainframe problem. Software firms are developing solutions for Y2K on the desktop too.

USB for You and Me Universal Serial Bus is a simple, standardized way to plug peripherals into your PC. After a few glitches, it's catching on fast.

Sour Note for Music Stores A new group is forming to push the MP3 standard. Retail dinosaurs must adapt—or die.

Embedded NT Here's another sign that the embedded-systems market will snowball in the next few years.

Storage Slugfest SyQuest closes its doors to ponder bankruptcy. More casualties are certain as standards struggles shake up the industry.

By Jesse Berst

For links and more information on any story mentioned here, go to www.pccomputing.com/getnow

the last 25 years, software developers have been rewarded for adding cool new features to programs. Now, under Microsoft's simplicity mandate, they're rewarded for making those features disappear.

This simplicity effort has been under way at Microsoft for more than a year now, and we're just beginning to see results. With Gates's full-time encouragement, though, the bigger-is-better mind-set should turn around at a faster pace. It's about time too.

Gates has his work cut out for him. But if he pulls it off, we all benefit. Maybe he'll even get a nice bonus.

Permanent Pause for VCRs New technology emerging this year takes television viewing and recording to the next level. One example: ReplayTV, a VCR-like box that sits near your TV to record and store your favorite shows. No videotape, though—ReplayTV digitally stores programs on its hard disk.

Homer Simpson Gets Inside Intel When the king of couch potatoes is hawking Intel products, you know the PC revolution has hit the mainstream. Will the chip maker's adoption of cerebrally challenged Homer Simpson as a celebrity spokesperson start a trend? Let's see . . . Elmer Fudd could shill for Microsoft.

At Your Service Stealing a page from the Nordstrom customer service manual, Gateway and Micron have beefed up their offerings. Gateway has expanded its Your:)Ware program to let customers get loans online. Micron is incorporating the Web in every aspect of its business, including pre- and post-purchase bennies such as free tech classes and a gift registry. Vendors are starting to get it. Also nice: You can find better customer service online than in person—thanks to browsers that understand your every whim.

Jesse Berst is the founder of ZDNet AnchorDesk. To sign up for Jesse's free e-mail newsletter, go to www.pccomputing.com/getnow.

Gates has his work cut out for him. But maybe he'll get a nice bonus.

REALITY CHECK — JESSE'S SPIN

WHAT THEY SAY	WHAT THEY MEAN
"We can use our unique respective strengths to go kick the s--- out of the beast from Redmond that wants to see us both dead." Marc Andreessen, head of Netscape, quoted in a memo from AOL chief Steve Case that surfaced in the Microsoft trial, *Inter@ctive Week*, October 1998.	Alone, we won't find bears in the woods, much less their s---.
"The number of people who click is shrinking and shrinking and shrinking." Andrew Bourland, publisher of ClickZ, a site that reviews ad banners, *Industry Standard*, October 1998.	Of course, the number of assaults being made on their senses with in-your-face banners is growing and growing and growing.
"To our customers: Worry not. Those who make choices that are genuinely good for customers, authors, and publishers will prevail. Goliath is always in range of a good slingshot." Jeff Bezos, CEO of Amazon.com, on news that rival Barnes & Noble bought the Ingram Group, a book distributor/wholesaler, Red Herring Online, November 1998.	Anybody know where I can find a slingshot big enough for a boulder?

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ELIZABETH BRANDT

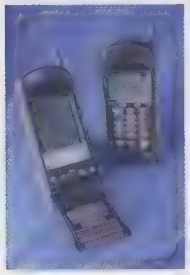
By Don Steinberg

For links and more information, visit www.pccomputing.com/getnow

One Plus One Equals Love

Cupid has drawn back his trusty bow, and his golden arrow found a pair destined to converge. Qualcomm's CDMA wireless and the PalmPilot PDA will soon be one. Just whispering the name—pdQ Smartphone—makes us swoon. Though we may have to wait till summer for the sweet embrace, love is in the air on Gadget-Lover's Lane.

Sweetest Match Since Car Met Radio For years PalmPilot owners have fantasized that the flip covers on their wonder gizmos would transmute the devices into portable phones. Yearn no longer, Piloteers! "One plus one equals more than two," boasts Qualcomm's Jeffrey Belk, pointing out that the pdQ Smartphone isn't merely a phone that doubles as a Palm computer. It's a Palm with integrated communications. Later in the year, as CDMA data services roll out, you'll be able to surf and e-mail wirelessly—at only 14.4Kbps, but Qualcomm includes a browser that strips out Web graphics. How much will fantasy fulfillment cost? Between $500 and $1,000 (varies by carrier).



Speaking of Car Radios The company that first put radios in cars, Motorola—hence the cool name—has its own plans for mixing phones and handhelds. Last year the company mysteriously bought Starfish Software, maker of the TrueSync program that synchronizes the credit card–size Rex PDA with PC-based organizer software. Now Motorola has invested in Symbian, an alliance of European companies (including Nokia, Ericsson, and Psion) that's trying to create a global operating-system standard for Smartphones and other wireless data devices.

Did Someone Say Operating System? Variations of Windows CE have found their way into phone-size devices like the new Take Control universal remote from Harmon/ Kardon. Now Microsoft has joined with Qualcomm—yikes!—to found Wireless Knowledge, a venture to promote a Windows CE–based wireless standard for connecting smart phones and other devices to the Internet. Qualcomm insists Wireless Knowledge and its pdQ Smartphone can coexist, even though the last time we checked Microsoft was working feverishly to obliterate all evidence of the PalmPilot.

Supposed Former E-Mail Junkie Here's a puzzler: a portable e-mail device that uses no wires—but it's *not* wireless. The answer? PocketMail, a system invented by tiny PocketScience of Santa Clara, California, and built into tiny e-mail appliances from Sharp and JVC. Sharp's Tel-Mail TM-200 and JVC's HC-E1000 are handheld PC-like gadgets that send and receive mail acoustically through a telephone receiver in a symphony of reassuring white-noise bleeps. The Sharp and JVC devices are $150 and $130, respectively, with service starting at $10 per month.

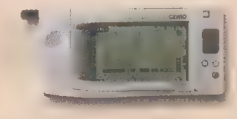
It Doesn't Matter Where You Are Magellan's GSC 100 puts Internet e-mail in a handheld global positioning system (GPS) device, sending messages wirelessly via the cool-sounding Orbcomm satellite network. Practical applications? A backpacker, injured in the wilderness, e-mails his exact longitude and latitude to friends back at the office, who laugh heartily at his misfortune. The GSC 100 sells for $999. Now get lost.

Help, I'm an Injured Backpacker in . . . Sweden? Of course, there's always MPS—the Mobile Positioning System. This new buzz phrase comes straight from Sweden, where digital-phone giant Ericsson coined it. MPS is a server-based system that lets any GSM-based phone determine its own location—or have its location tracked by the Swedish authorities.

Everything's Unifying in Europe These Days No Eurocentric high-tech product convergence roundup would be complete without a mention of Prolion, the pioneering Dutch agricultural-robot maker that sells an automated cow-milking system. Cows learn that when their udders are full they can walk into a barn where a machine milks them. Prolion also sells the Freshopper, a computerized self-service machine that slices cold cuts for Europe's supermarket shoppers. I know what you're thinking: Trained cows? Self-service cold cuts? When convergence is in the air, anything is possible.

Edited by Gordon Bass.

Not Yet **Now available only in Japan, Toshiba's dandy Genio PCV100 combines a pen-input PDA with a wireless phone, pager, and fax—even a wireless modem for browsing and e-mail. The Genio (Italian for *genius*) also accepts SmartMedia memory cards, which now hold up to 16MB apiece. We always get things after the Japanese do. What next? A national banking crisis?**



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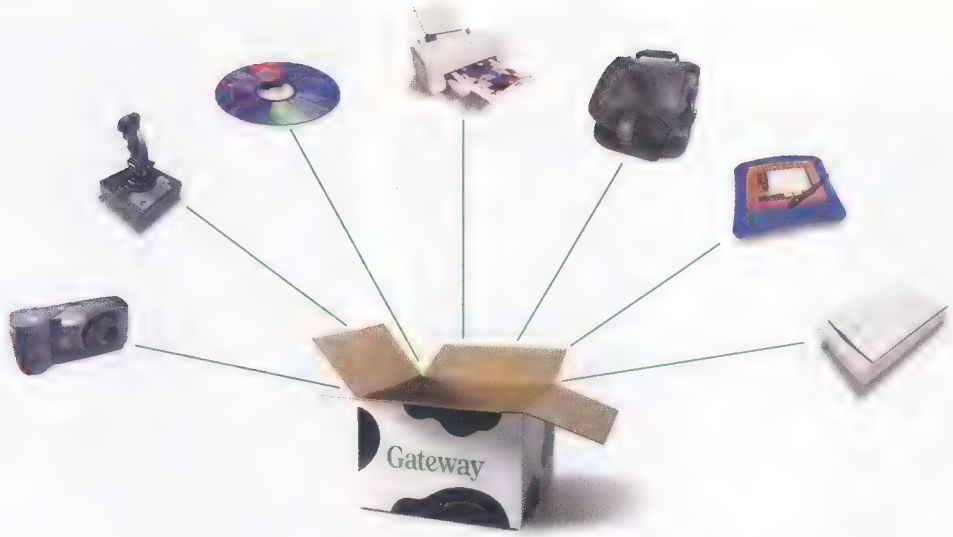

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Jeremy, Shanti and Mark are Cisco Networking Academy students.

"Recently, we configured Cisco Series 2501 routers enabling AppleTalk and IPX. We gave their interfaces IP addresses and IPX addresses, and gave our routers specific names. We created a web page documenting our whole challenge. We did this using HTML tags."
— Shanti, age 18

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*Source: January 1998 IT Workforce Study by the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA).

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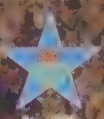


SAMPLE WORKSTATIONS

DUAL RAID 0-5 XEON WORKSTATION

- 1 Intel Pentium II Xeon 450Mhz Processor
- 512KB Cache, Expandable to 2 CPUs
- 256MB SDRAM Expandable to 2GB
- Slots: (6) PCI, (1) ISA, (1) AGP
- Creative Labs 128 PCI Sound
- #9 Revolution 4 32MB AGP video
- Q:(2) 9GB 10,000RPM LVD (5.0ms)
- Removable HD
- AMI 466 Ultra 2 LVD Raid 0-5 Controller
- Sony 32X CD-ROM, Keyboard, Floppy, Mouse
- Tower Case 300 Watts

$4613

Accel Galaxy 52MB Dual Port Video $6300

DUAL PII 450/BX

POWER STATION

- 1 Intel Pentium II 450Mhz Processor
- 512KB Cache, Upgradeable to 2 CPUs
- 64MB SDRAM
- Slots: (5) PCI, (2) ISA, (1) AGP BX Chipset
- IBM 10GB 7200 RPM Ultra-33
- Sony 32x CD-ROM
- NEW! Diamond N Vidia 16MB TNT AGP Video
- Keyboard, Floppy, Mouse
- Mid-Tower Chassis

$1695

9GB LVD 10,000RPM Solution $2480

Raid Upgradeable

DUAL XEON 400 MHZ

- 1 Intel Pentium II Xeon Processor 400Mhz
- 512KB Cache, Expandable to 2 CPUs
- 128MB SDRAM Expandable to 2GB
- Slots: (5) PCI, (1) ISA, (1) AGP
- Matrox G200 16 MB
- IBM 14GB 7200RPM Ultra-33
- Sony 32X CD-ROM, Keyboard, Floppy, Mouse
- Tower Case 300 Watts

$2330

9GB LVD 10,000RPM Solution $2920

CELERON 333 MHZ

- 1 Intel Celeron 333Mhz CPU
- 128KB Cache
- 32MB SDRAM

Integrated:

- Creative Labs PCI Sound
- 8MB N Vidia 128 AGP Video

- 4GB Ultra 33 HD
- Slots: (3) PCI, (3) ISA
- Sony 32x CD-ROM; Keyboard, Floppy, Mouse
- Surround Sound Speakers
- Windows 98
- Desktop Chassis
- Intel Landesk Client Manager

$842

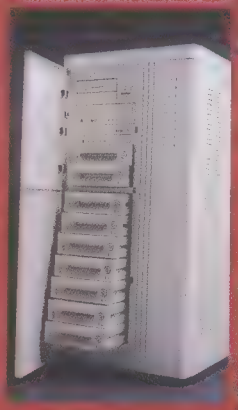
DUAL XEON POWER STATION

100%

- 1 Intel Pentium II Xeon 400Mhz
- 512KB Cache, Expandable to 2 CPUs
- 256MB SDRAM Expandable to 2GB
- Slots: (5) PCI, (2) ISA, (1) AGP
- 9GB 10,000 RPM LVD Removeable HD
- Sony 4X CD Recorder
- Iomega Zip Drive
- Diamond 16MB Viper 128 Bit TNT
- Sound Blaster Live 32 Bit Voice
- Windows 98
- Keyboard, Floppy, Mouse
- Tower Case

$3930

SAMPLE SERVERS



QUAD XEON 450MHZ - TOWER

- (1) Intel Xeon 450Mhz Processor
- 512MB Cache - Expandable to 4 CPUs
- 256MB ECC Memory, Expand to 4GB
- Slots: (7) PCI, (1) ISA • Integrated 2MB Video
- Integrated Dual Ultra 2 LVD SCSI Controllers
- 3 Chan.Ultra 2 LVD Raid Cont. w/64MB Cache
- (3) 18GB LVD 10,000RPM (5.0ms) Remov. HD
- Intel Server Adaptor
- EMP Port for Remote Server Management
- Server Management System On-board
- 9 Drive Bay Q; (6) 230 Watt Redundant Power

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Rackmount Solution Available

DUAL PII MIRRORED RAID SOLUTION

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- 512KB Cache, Upgradeable to 2 CPUs
- 128MB ECC Memory, Expandable to 1GB
- Slots: (4) PCI, (2) ISA, BX Chipset
- Integrated Adaptec UW SCSI
- Integrated 2MB Video
- Intel Server Mgt. Hardware
- Single Channel Ultra2 LVD RAID Controller w/16MB Cache
- (2) - 9GB 10,000 RPM LVD (5.0ms) Removeable HD
- 12-24GB Seagate 4mm DAT Tape Drive
- Sony 32X CD-ROM, Keyboard, Floppy, Mouse
- Full Tower 300 Watt

$4750

DUAL SLOT 2 XEON 400MHZ RAID

- 1 Intel Pentium II Xeon 450Mhz Processor
- 512KB Cache, Expandable to 2 CPU's
- 256MB SDRAM Expandable to 2GB
- Slots: (6) PCI, (1) ISA, (1) AGP
- Integrated 10/100 Ethernet & Sound
- Matrox 8MB G200 Video
- Q:(3) 9GB 10,000RPM LVD (5.0ms)
- Removable HD
- 3 Channel LVD Raid 5 Controller w/16MB Cache
- Sony 32X CD-ROM, Keyboard, Floppy, Mouse
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DUAL XEON RACKMOUNT WEB SERVER

- (1) Intel XEON 400 Mhz Processor
- 512KB Cache, Expandable to 2 CPUs
- 128MB ECC Memory, Expandable to 2GB
- Slots: (6) PCI, (1) ISA, (1) AGP - GX Chipset
- Integrated 10/100 Ethernet
- 9GB 10,000 RPM LVD (5.0ms) Removeable HD
- Integrated Adaptec 2940-U2W
- Sony 32X CD-ROM
- Keyboard, Floppy, Mouse
- Rackmount Chassis 300 Watt Power

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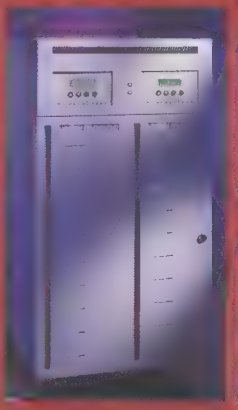
SAMPLE RAID SUBSYSTEMS



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2 Channel RAID UW Controller • 8 Hot-Swappable Drive Bays • 2-300 Watt N+1 Redundant Power Supplies • 32MB Cache • Internal Temperature Status Power Supply Status • Cooling Fan Status • Visual and Audible Alarm:

27GB Solution	27GB Solution	54GB Solution
Q: (3) 9GB 7200RPM LVD HD	Q: (3) 9GB 10,000RPM (5.0ms) LVD HD	Q: (3) 18GB 10,000RPM LVD HD
$6370	$6840	$8351

VFC 20 BAY

Active/Active Controllers • Q: (2) 4 Channel RAID 5 UW Controllers • 8 - 230 Watt Hot Redundant Power Supplies • 128MB of Cache Internal Temperature Status • Power Supply Status • Cooling Fan Status • Visual and Audible Alarm

72GB Solution	72GB Solution	144GB Solution
Q: (8) 9.1GB 7200RPM LVD HD	Q: (8) 9GB 10,000RPM (5.0ms) LVD HD	Q: (8) 18GB 10,000RPM LVD HD
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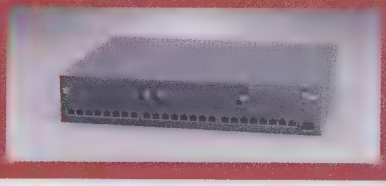

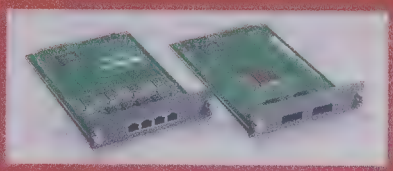

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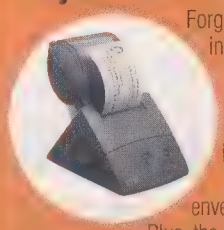

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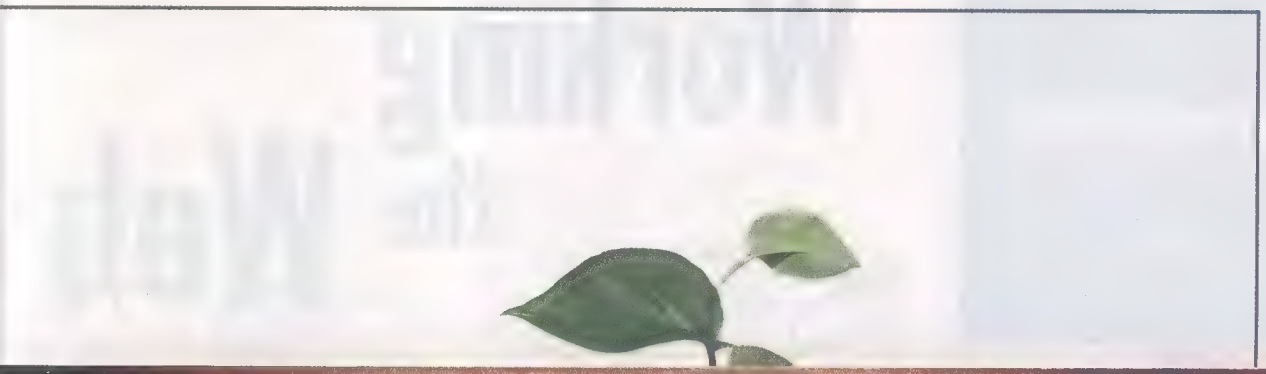

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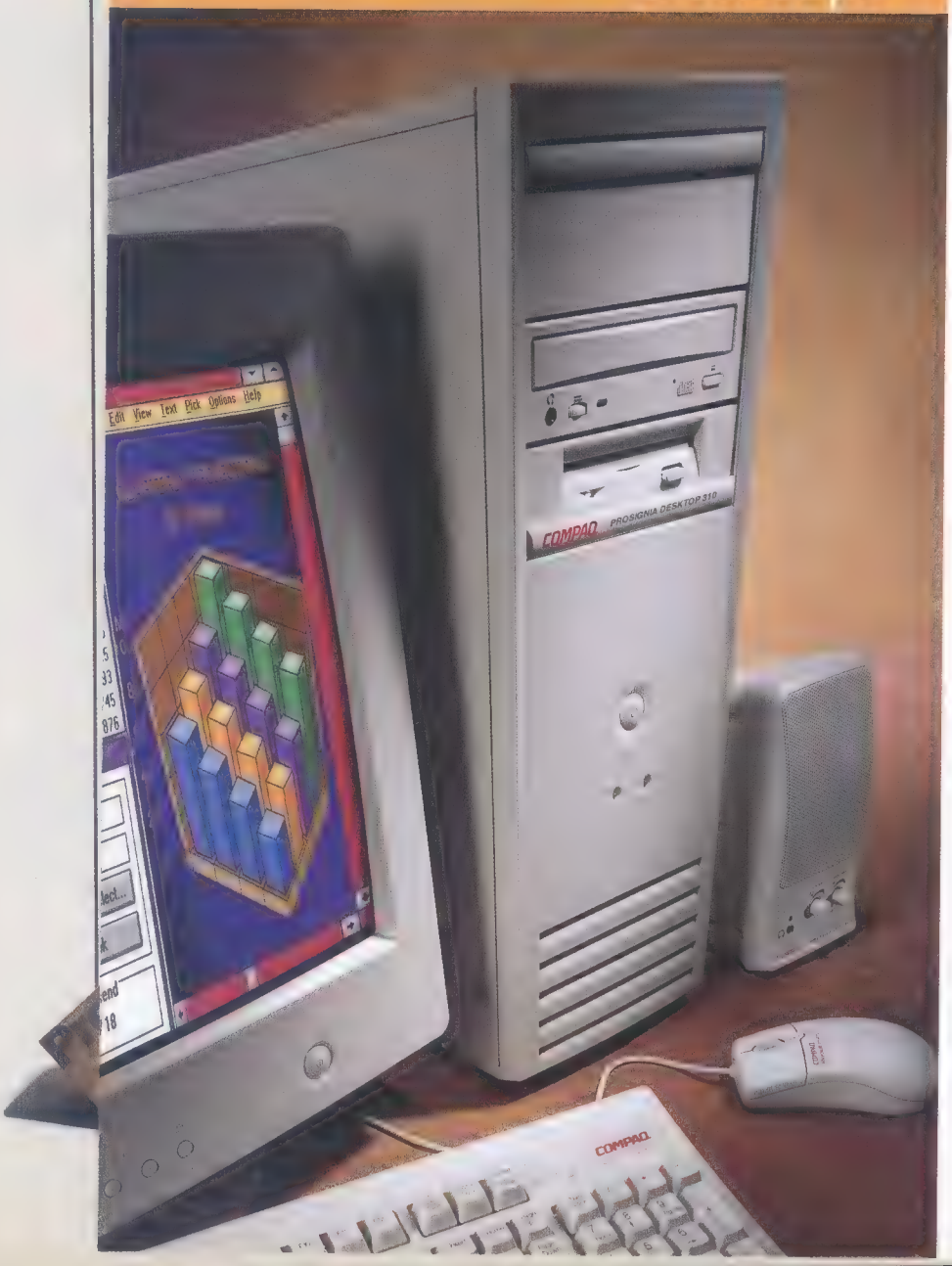
Prosignia *Desktops*



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Consider these options:

- Upgrade to S900 19" Monitor (18" viewable) $200[6]
- Iomega Zip Drive $99[6]
- Upgrade to Altec Lansing 3-Piece Speakers $85[6]
- 3Com 10/100 TX NIC $65[6]
- Upgrade to Microsoft® Windows NT® $99[6]

For more desktop options, visit our website or ask your sales representative.

Choose one of these recommended configurations. Or customize a Prosignia to meet your specific needs.

	Prosignia Desktop 310		Prosignia Desktop 330		
Processor	Intel® Celeron® 300A/66MHz	Intel Celeron 333/66MHz	Intel Pentium® II 350/100MHz	Intel Pentium II 400/100MHz	Intel Pentium II 450/100MHz
Cache	128KB integrated	128KB integrated	512KB L2	512KB L2	512KB L2
Memory	32MB SDRAM	64MB SDRAM	64MB SDRAM	128MB SDRAM	128MB SDRAM
Hard Drive	8.4GB	8.4GB	10GB	13.5GB	16.8GB
CD-/DVD-ROM	40X[1] Max CD-ROM (optional upgrade to DVD-ROM available on some models)				
Modem	Compaq 56K V.90 data/fax modem[2]				
Video Card/Memory	Matrox G100 AGP/4MB	Matrox G100 AGP/4MB	Matrox G200 SD AGP/8MB	Matrox G200 SD AGP/8MB	Matrox G200 SD AGP/8MB
Total Slots/Bays	6/5	6/5	6/5	6/5	6/5
Compaq Color Monitor[3]	S700 17" (15.7" viewable)	S700 17" (15.7" viewable)	S700 17" (15.7" viewable)	S700 17" (15.7" viewable)	S700 17" (15.7" viewable)
Diskette Drive	3.5" 1.44MB	3.5" 1.44MB	3.5" 1.44MB	3.5" 1.44MB	3.5" 1.44MB
Ports	ECP Parallel, Keyboard, 2 Serial, 2 USB, Mouse				
Keyboard/Mouse	104-key/Compaq Microsoft® Intellimouse™				
Audio/Speakers	Compaq PremierSound/2-Piece Speakers				
Pre-installed Operating System	Microsoft Windows® 98	Microsoft Windows 98	Microsoft Windows 98	Microsoft Windows 98	Microsoft Windows 98
Productivity Suite	Microsoft Office Small Business Edition V2 (Optional Microsoft OfficePro97 available), Training Program for Microsoft Office, Norton AntiVirus, and Carbon Copy Host				
Online Services[4]	Free[4] trial of Compaq Online Services				
Limited Warranty[5]	3-Year	3-Year	3-Year	3-Year	3-Year
New Low Prices[6]:	**$1,279[6]**	**$1,399[6]**	**$1,599[6]**	**$1,849[6]**	**$2,099[6]**
Lease Prices[7]:	**$44/mo.**	**$48/mo.**	**$54/mo.**	**$63/mo.**	**$72/mo.**

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- Custom configurations
- One-Touch Internet Button
- Free[4] trial of Compaq Online Services[4] — with online.*briefcase* for mobile professionals (see back cover)
- Immediate productivity with pre-installed Microsoft Office SBE, Norton AntiVirus, Carbon Copy Host, Training Program for Microsoft Office
- Optional Compaq CarePaq: enhanced service and extended warranty available; Prosignia includes 3-year limited warranty

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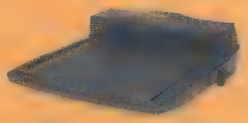
- Convenience Base (Pass-Through) $189[6]
- 64MB to 96MB Memory $65[6]
- 24X[9] Max CD to DVD Drive $199[6]
- Additional Li-Ion Battery $129[6]
- Compaq Value Carrying Case $49[6]



For more notebook options, visit our website or ask your sales representative.

Choose one of these recommended configurations. Or customize a Prosignia to meet your specific needs.

	Prosignia Notebook 120	Prosignia Notebook 140	Prosignia Notebook 160
Processor	Mobile Intel® Pentium® II 233MHz	Mobile Intel Pentium II 266MHz	Mobile Intel Pentium II 300MHz
L2 Cache	512KB	512KB	512KB
Memory Std./Max.	64MB/160MB	64MB/160MB	64MB/160MB
SMART Hard Drive Std.	4GB	4GB	6GB
Display	12.1" SVGA CTFT (800 x 600)	13.3" CTFT (1024 x 768)	14.1" CTFT (1024 x 768)
CD-ROM/Diskette Drive	24X[9] Max/3.5" 1.44MB	24X[9] Max/3.5" 1.44MB	24X[9] Max/3.5" 1.44MB
Integrated Modem	Compaq 56K V.90 data/fax modem[2]	Compaq 56K V.90 data/fax modem[2]	Compaq 56K V.90 data/fax modem[2]
Battery Type/Life[10]	Li-Ion (up to 5 hours with the second battery installed)		
AC Adapter	Integrated	Integrated	Integrated
MultiBay	Supports one of these integrated components: Iomega Zip Plus, SuperDisk LS-120 Drive, 3.5" 1.44MB diskette drive, second hard drive or second battery		
PC Card Slots	2 Type II or 1 Type III	2 Type II or 1 Type III	2 Type II or 1 Type III
Sound	Compaq PremierSound	Compaq PremierSound	Compaq PremierSound
Pointing Device	Touchpad	Touchpad	Touchpad
One-Touch Internet Access Button	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ports	Enhanced Parallel, Serial, External Monitor, External Keyboard/Pointing Device, Convenience Base, Headphone/Line In, Microphone/Line In, AC Power, RJ11, Infrared, USB		
Intelligent Manageability	Included	Included	Included
Pre-installed Operating System	Microsoft Windows 98	Microsoft Windows 98	Microsoft Windows 98
Productivity Suite	Microsoft Office Small Business Edition V2 (Optional Microsoft OfficePro97 available), Training Program for Microsoft Office, Norton AntiVirus, and Carbon Copy Host		
Online Services[4]	Free[4] trial of Compaq Online Services		
Dimensions	2.3" x 12.5" x 9.9"	2.3" x 12.5" x 9.9"	2.3" x 12.5" x 9.9"
Worldwide Limited Warranty[5]	3-Year	3-Year	3-Year
New Low Prices:	**$1,999[6]**	**$2,399[6]**	**$2,899[6]**
Lease Prices[7]:	**$68/mo.**	**$82/mo.**	**$99/mo.**

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Prosignia servers include:

- Custom configurations on a range of servers
- Server Software Set-up Tool: Compaq SmartStart
- Server Management Tools: Compaq Insight Manager and Automatic Server Recovery
- Optional Compaq CarePaq Service and Support

Consider these options:

- 64MB SDRAM Memory Kit $228[6]
- SMART 2SL Array Controller $697[6]
- Additional 9.1GB Wide-Ultra SCSI-3 Hard Drive $681[6]
- 4/8GB DAT Tape Drive $714[6]
- 56K[2] ISA Fax Modem $125[6]

For more server options, visit our website or ask your sales representative.

Choose one of these recommended configurations. Or customize a Prosignia to meet your specific needs.

	Prosignia Server 720	Prosignia Server 740	Prosignia Server 740
Processor	Intel® Pentium® II 400MHz	Intel Pentium II 400MHz	Intel Pentium II 450MHz
Dual Processor Support	No	Yes	Yes
L2 Cache	512KB	512KB	512KB
Memory Std./Max.	64MB/384MB ECC SDRAM	64MB/1GB ECC SDRAM	128MB/1GB ECC SDRAM
SCSI Hard Drive	4.3GB	9.1GB	Two 9.1GB Drives (18.2GB Total)
Hard Disk Controller	Wide Ultra2 SCSI	Integrated Wide-Ultra SCSI-3	Integrated Wide-Ultra SCSI-3
Expansion Bays	5 Total: 3 Removable, 2 Hard Drive	8 Total: 4 Removable, 4 Hard Drive	8 Total: 4 Removable, 4 Hard Drive
Max Internal Storage	27.3GB	54.6GB	54.6GB
CD-ROM	32X[11] Max	32X[11] Max	32X[11] Max
Diskette Drive	3.5" 1.44 MB	3.5" 1.44 MB	3.5" 1.44 MB
Total Expansion Slots	6 (3 PCI, 1 PCI/ISA, 1 ISA, 1 AGP)	6 (2 PCI, 4 PCI/ISA)	6 (2 PCI, 4 PCI/ISA)
Network Interface Controller	Integrated 10/100 TX UTP	Integrated 10/100 TX UTP	Integrated 10/100 TX UTP
Redundant NIC Support	No	Yes	Yes
Software Setup	SmartStart	SmartStart	SmartStart
Server Management	Compaq Insight Manager, Automatic Server Recovery	Compaq Insight Manager, Automatic Server Recovery-2, Integrated Remote Console	Compaq Insight Manager, Automatic Server Recovery-2, Integrated Remote Console
Power Supply	200W	325W	325W
Compaq Monitor[7]	V55 15" (13.7" viewable)	V55 15" (13.7" viewable)	V55 15" (13.7" viewable)
Worldwide Limited Warranty[5]	3-Year	3-Year	3-Year
Pre-Failure Warranty[13]	Processor, Hard Drive	Processor, Memory, Hard Drive	Processor, Memory, Hard Drive
New Low Prices[3]:	**$2,319[6]**	**$2,949[6]**	**$4,199[6]**
Lease Prices[7]:	**$79/mo.**	**$100/mo.**	**$143/mo.**

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- Up to 2MB of drive space

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[1]**40X Max CD-ROM:** Data transfer rates may vary from 150KB/s to 6000KB/s. [2]**56K Protocol:** Designed to allow faster downloads from 56K-compliant digital sources. Maximum achievable download transmission rates currently do not reach 56Kbps and will vary with line conditions. Your modem may only download at the current V.34 standard protocol rates (up to 33.6K) until V.90 ITU standard software upgrade is available. [3]**Monitor included in price.** [4]**Compaq Online Services:** Free trial requires Internet access capability. [5]**Limited Warranty:** Ask for a copy of the limited warranty for any product featured in this catalog or call for details. Certain restrictions and exclusions apply. All warranty periods represent time from initial purchase. Battery packs and certain options are covered by a one-year limited warranty. Standard coverage includes: Compaq Prosignia Desktops 3 years parts, 1st year on-site labor. Warranty service for parts years 2 and 3 is provided via carry-in service. Compaq Prosignia Notebooks 3 years parts and 1 year labor; 48-hour turnaround on mail-in depot repair. If your notebook requires repair while under 1st year of warranty, Compaq will supply packaging, pick up the PC at your location, repair it, and return it to you. For pick-up service, call Compaq Tech Support Center. Warranty service for parts after 1st year is provided via carry-in or mail-in. For carry-in service you may bring the PC in to any authorized Compaq Service Provider. Compaq monitors S700 and S900 — 3 years parts with the 1st year on-site labor. V55 — 1 year on-site labor which covers parts and labor. Compaq 48-Hour Monitor Swap — if your Compaq S700 or S900 monitor needs servicing within the warranty period, you can get a replacement monitor from Compaq within 48 hours of your service call, however pick-up service is not available. Call 1-800-OK COMPAQ if you have a monitor problem. [6]All prices shown are DirectPlus prices and are subject to change, and do not include applicable state and local sales tax or shipping charges. [7]**Leasing:** Leasing available through Compaq Capital Corporation (CCC) to qualified commercial customers in the United States, subject to credit approval and execution of CCC lease documentation. Monthly lease payments are based on 36-month fair market value lease, and do not include taxes, fees, or shipping charges. Offering subject to other restrictions and CCC reserves the right to change, alter, or cancel at any time without notice. [8]Offer valid in U.S. only to end users. Expires 4/30/99. Limit one per customer and may not be combined with any other offer. Bundle and hardware must be leased at the same time. Proof of purchase must be submitted with rebate coupon. Invoice must show lease of product and Premier Online Services Bundle, date, Compaq hardware serial number, and end user customer name and address. Multiple addresses and P.O. boxes are prohibited. For complete rules, see rebate coupon that comes with lease paperwork. [9]**24X Max CD-ROM:** Data transfer rates range from 150KB/s to 3600KB/s. [10]**Battery Life:** Actual results may vary with individual usage. When tested in standard configuration, using the Ziff-Davis Battery Mark Test version 2.0, the battery life of the Prosignia Notebook will range up to 2.5 hours, standard configuration at the time of announce is considered to be one battery, 1024 x 768 (16-bit color) panel set at 50% brightness, 32MB RAM, and no drives active other than the hard drive. [11]**32X Max CD-ROM:** Data transfer rates vary from 150KB/s to 4800KB/s. [12]For hard drives, GB=billion bytes. [13]**Compaq Server Pre-Failure Warranty:** Pre-Failure Warranty is available on all Compaq Prosignia servers using Compaq Insight Manager 2.1 or higher, also covers ECC memory, and server hard drives (except the 535MB Fast-SCSI-2 hard drives) using Compaq IDA, IDA-2, Compaq SMART SCSI Array Controllers, Compaq SMART-2 SCSI Array Controllers, or SMART Array 3100ES Controllers. Products, specifications, and prices are subject to change. Compaq is not liable for pictorial or typographical errors in this catalog. Compaq, the Compaq Logo, Prosignia, Compaq Insight Manager, and SmartStart are registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. DirectPlus is a registered service mark of Compaq Computer Corporation. MultiBay and PremierSound are trademarks of Compaq Computer Corporation. Microsoft, Windows, and Windows NT are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Intel, the Intel Inside Logo, Pentium, and Celeron are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation in the U.S. and other countries. Other product names mentioned herein may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. © 1998 Compaq Computer Corporation. All Rights Reserved. Printed in the U.S. 12/98

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THE Computer PAGE.

Working the Web

XML: THE ANNOTATED SPECIFICATION

by Bob DuCharme

With over 170 new usage examples, the leading XML expert explains and annotates the complete official W3C XML specification. Every paragraph of the original spec is dissected—from documents, logical structures and physical structures to conformance and notation. In addition, cross-reference tables and an XML glossary provide easy navigation. (PTR)

Pub. Price: $44.99

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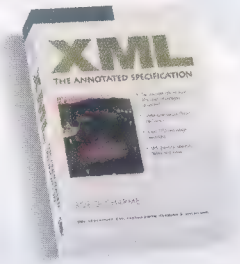
B&N Price $35.99



MICROSOFT® VISUAL INTERDEV™ 6.0 WEB TECHNOLOGIES REFERENCE

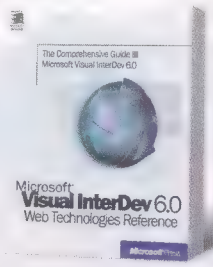
by Microsoft Corporation

This comprehensive volume details HTML, JScript, VBScript, Active Data Objects and server scripting. Web developers will find industry-standard information as well as exclusive Microsoft Press content. Includes CD-ROM. (Microsoft Press)

Pub. Price: $39.99

Discount 20%

B&N Price $31.99



MICROSOFT® VISUAL INTERDEV™ ENTERPRISE 6.0 DEVELOPER'S WORKSHOP

by G. Andrew Duthie

Developers and organizations looking to solve business problems through Internet technologies will find valuable tools and blueprints in this solution-based workshop. Models and samples help developers expedite programming efforts and streamline core processes. (Microsoft Press)

Pub. Price: $49.99

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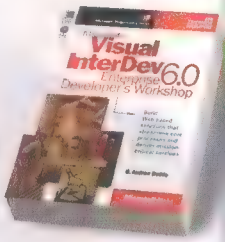
B&N Price $39.99



THE WEB DESIGN WOW! BOOK

by Jack Davis & Susan Merritt

This guided tour of award-winning Web sites and CD-ROMs offers inspirational ideas and real-world solutions for users at every level. The enclosed CD-ROM includes try-out versions of WYSIWYG and HTML editors and full-version browsers, plug-ins and utilities. (Peachpit Press)

Pub. Price: $39.95

Discount 20%

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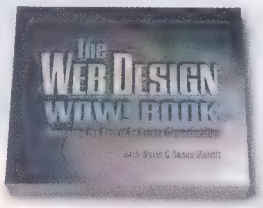

INSTANT JAVA™ THIRD EDITION

by John A. Pew & Stephen G. Pew

Add instant power to your Web site with more than 150 ready-to-use applets and sample configurations that require no programming. Completely updated for Netscape 4.5 and Internet Explorer 4.0x, this Java resource contains the "Property Sheet" customizer and CD-ROM with the latest Netscape browser. (Sun Microsystems)

Pub. Price: $34.99

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CORE JAVA™ WEB SERVER

by Chris Taylor & Tim Kimmet

Written specifically for experienced developers, this code-packed guide delivers real scenarios and real solutions for using new Java Web Server technology. This book demonstrates product features and teaches practical administration and optimization techniques. CD-ROM included. (PTR)

Publisher's Price: $49.99

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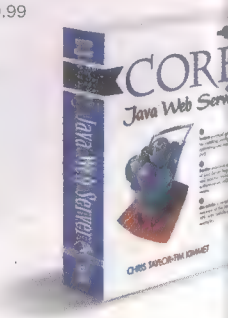

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HARLEY HAHN® TEACHES THE INTERNET

by Harley Hahn

The bestselling author adds a human touch to the Internet with a comprehensive guide that enhances the overall Web experience. Through Hahn's personal guidance, new and accomplished users will gain a different perspective on tapping the Internet for work, communication, education and entertainment. (Que)

Pub. Price: $19.99

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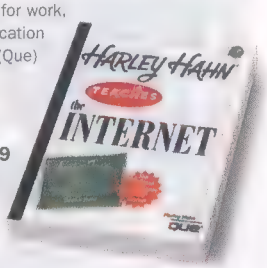

SAMS TEACH YOURSELF TO CREATE WEB PAGES IN 24 HOURS

by Ned Snell

Aspiring Web authors will find everything they need to know in this CD-ROM and book starter kit. Step-by-step instructions divided into 24 easily accomplished lessons show how to design, create and publish by teaching specific tasks and general concepts. (Sams)

Pub. Price: $24.99

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ACTIVE SERVER PAGES FOR DUMMIES®

by Bill Hatfield

Personalize Web pages for each user who visits your site with helpful advice on mastering ActiveX Data Objects, VBScript and JavaScript. Simple explanations and a bonus CD-ROM guide novice and intermediate developers through all the steps to creating dynamic, active sites. (IDG)

Pub. Price: $29.99

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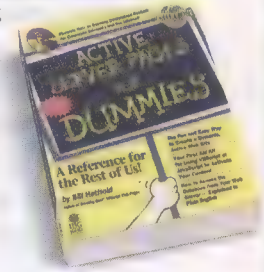

DYNAMIC HTML

by Danny Goodman

This new sourcebook provides a jump-start for content developers. Browser-compatibility information, indexes and reference pages for all HTML tags, CSS style attributes, browser document objects and core JavaScript objects make this reference indispensable. (O'Reilly)

Pub. Price: $39.95

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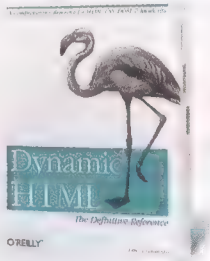
B&N Price $31.96



JAVASCRIPT™ BIBLE THIRD EDITION

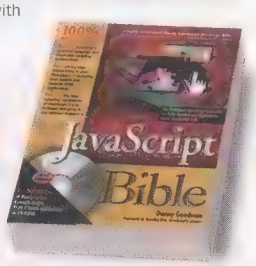
by Danny Goodman

Leverage the full power of JavaScript with precise tutorials that teach how to integrate Java applets into Web pages, build debugging tools, deploy cross-browser Dynamic HTML applications, master core language facilities and more. Includes a ready-to-run CD-ROM with hundreds of example scripts. (IDG)

Pub. Price: $49.99

Discount 20%

B&N Price $39.99



WEB DESIGN IN A NUTSHELL

by Jennifer Niederst

Focusing on the front-end aspects of Web design including HTML, graphics, multimedia and interactivity, this resource book provides quick answers to the questions and problems that every Web designer—professional or amateur—encounters on a daily basis. (O'Reilly)

Pub. Price: $19.99

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B&N Price: $15.99

INTERNET COMPLETE

by Sybex

This valuable Internet resource provides beginner and intermediate users with one thousand pages on setting up e-mail, searching the Web and AOL, working with HTML, choosing and installing PCs and modems, plus step-by-step troubleshooting tips. (Sybex)

Pub. Price: $19.99

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SPECIAL EDITION USING HTML 4, FIFTH EDITION

by Molly E. Holzschlag

Clearly defining HTML in its present form, this edition looks at the realities of site design and provides real-life solutions for users creating ambitious sites. Concise language teaches how to implement interactive technology, use practical programming strategies and secure transactions and databases. With CD-ROM. (Que)

Pub. Price: $39.99

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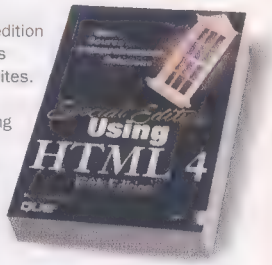

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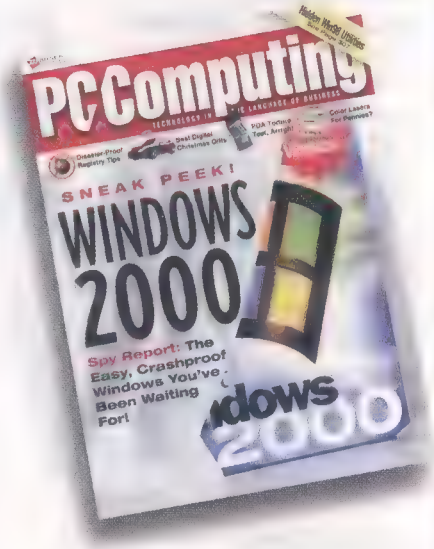
Banner Year

Ad Nauseam

Although I agree with John C. Dvorak's statement that Internet advertising has given many Web pages a cheap, tawdry look ("Ad Attack," December 1998, page 91), for small businesses banner exchange is currently the least expensive and most effective way to reach a target audience. The only problem is that big companies consume the best advertising spaces, muscling out upstarts with smaller budgets. As an alternative, advertising in newsgroups and chat rooms has been quite successful for my small business.

Mitch J. Pomerance
via the Internet



Takes One to Know One

I agree with John C. Dvorak that spam and Web advertising are a pain in the butt ("Ad Attack," December 1998), but *PC Computing* is just as bad. It takes me 10 minutes to search and destroy all the reorder cards hidden throughout the magazine. And what's with those 8-page ads that feel like they're written on 10-gauge sheets of steel? Three-quarters of the magazine is ads. Stop flooding our landfills with crap that nobody reads.

Dan Kruse
via the Internet

Motley Crew

I applaud Taylor & Jerome's "Liar, Liar" for taking aim at the hypesters and touts who are adulterating online stock message boards (December 1998, page 89). Unfortunately, they've lumped The Motley Fool into the wrong category. We're not one of those "thinly regulated conduits for rumors, speculations, and outright falsehoods." We're one of the few financial sites with staff members who patrol for and remove touts. We're also unique in that we ban discussion of stocks under $5. It's much easier, you see, to manipulate a 14-cent microcap than, say, Microsoft. Because of these policies, the SEC and FTC asked us to participate in an investor education campaign. The mission of The Motley Fool is to educate, amuse, and enrich the individual investor. The fact that none of us got a solid financial education in high school is shocking, and we're trying to do something about it.

Chris Hill
via the Internet

Windows Fantasies

So, this is what Ed Bott thinks about Windows 2000: "It's crashproof. It's easy. It's smart. We're running it—you will be soon!" ("Future Windows," December 1998, page 180). He also claims it "combines the rock-steady NT kernel with the usability enhancements of Windows 98." I thought Ed would long ago have given up on fantasies like this, along with the Easter Bunny, Santa Claus, and the tooth fairy. Microsoft still hasn't delivered the goods it promised us years ago, and I don't anticipate getting them anytime soon.

Jeremy Clifton
via the Internet

I'VE BEEN USING Beta 2 of NT 5.0 (aka Windows 2000) on my main production PC for five months now. It hasn't crashed once. Maybe the Easter Bunny will bring me Beta 3. **EB**

Wishful Thinking

It was a big mistake for me to read Paul Somerson's "I Wish" (December 1998, page 87). I almost gagged and spewed coffee all over my desktop when he mentioned Slobodan. In fact, I liked his wish list so much that I added it to my own, which includes an automatic doorbell zapper that can shock people trying to sell me their religion on weekend mornings. And of course, I'm wishing for more of Somerson's columns.

Ray Amoranto
via the Internet

The Perfect PDA

Paul Somerson wishes for a "PDA with a screen [he] can read . . . that doubles as a phone and pager" ("I Wish," December 1998). He's not greedy enough. My PDA also needs an alarm clock and calendar, an AM-FM radio, an MP3 player, a modem, an RJ-11 socket, and an accessory minikeyboard. That should do it.

David Brown
via the Internet

E-book Critic

All right, Jesse Berst, get Mom a $500 Rocket eBook to avoid those $6 paperback purchases and the drive to the library three times a week (Radar, December 1998, page 14). Or find a public library that lets Mom check out more than one book at a time—such as any public library. But with an eBook you'll save big bucks and time, right? I printed the abstracts of the 25 best-selling eBook titles at barnesandnoble.com. I discovered it costs $14 more to buy the 25 electronic books than the 25 printed ones—and that doesn't count the many

hours of downloading. According to reviews, you can't read the eBook for more than half an hour without straining your eyes. Well, that's about how long it took Berst to research his column.

Walt Crawford
via the Internet

SyQuest Support

Has SyQuest, maker of the SparQ and SyJet removable drives, gone under?

Gene Davis
via the Internet

SADLY, SYQUEST has filed for bankruptcy. Try DriveSavers at (415) 382-2000 for data recovery, and to move data from SyQuest cartridges to other media, give Committed To Memory a call at (877) 937-2833. **MS**

This Guy Loves Linux

Chris Lindquist's December review "Real NT Alternatives" isn't up to snuff (New! page 127). Lindquist doesn't mention scalability, performance gains, or any of the other concrete advantages Linux has over NT. Moreover, Lindquist barely touches on the major installation differences between the two Linux operating systems. My favorite part of the article? "It's wise to dabble with freeware Linux before you throw money at either of these commercial versions." Uh, Chris, you can download Caldera OpenLinux and RedHat Linux free from either vendor's Web site. That's what GNU is all about.

David S. Poole
via the Internet

WHILE LINUX DOES offer performance gains over NT on similar hardware, users won't benefit if the OS is too hard to install or doesn't support the software they need. As for the freeware status of Caldera and RedHat, you're right. Users can download both products for free—if they're up for a more complex installation than with store-bought CD-ROMs. **CL**

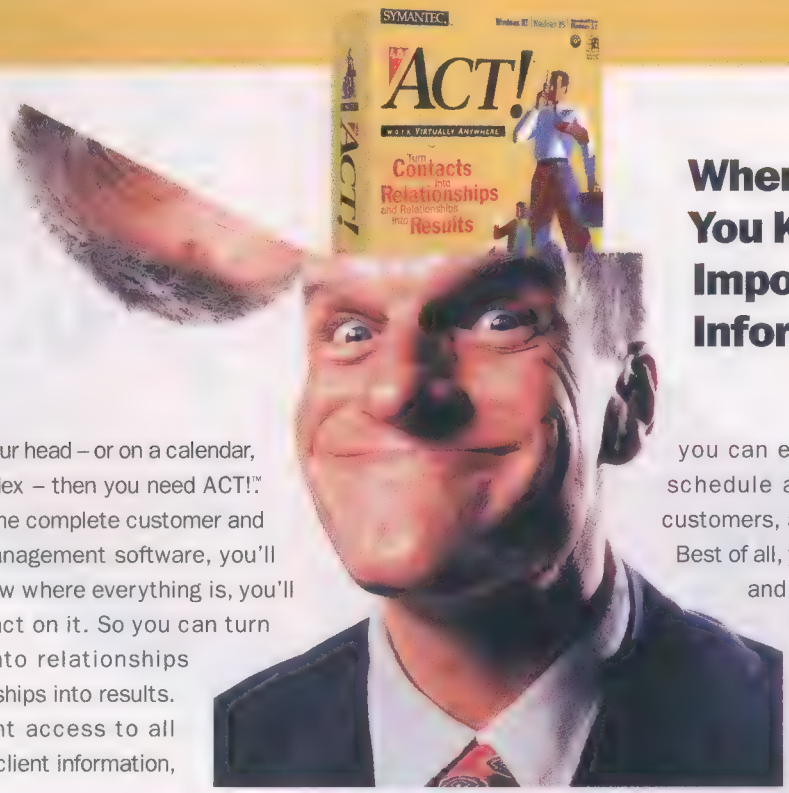
For the Record

The Sony VAIO 505FX slim notebook does not include an internal CD-ROM drive ("Four Ways to Stay Slim," December 1998, page 96).

SmartDisk's FlashPath will not work with the Nikon Coolpix 900 digital camera ("Digital Christmas," December 1998, page 234). The Coolpix stores images on CompactFlash cards. FlashPath, on the other hand, works with Toshiba's SmartMedia, a digital storage medium that Agfa, Fuji, and Olympus digital cameras use.

Improvements in video and audio quality in Microsoft NetShow Services 3.0 are solely the result of Microsoft technology ("Now Playing on the Net," December 1998, page 154).

AOL BOUGHT NETSCAPE. WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU? Send your thoughts about this and other subjects to Mail, *PC Computing*, 50 Beale St., 13th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105; or via the Internet, PCCmail@zd.com. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



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Infolink 165 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

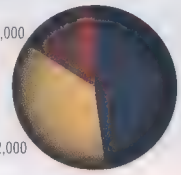
A-List

By Christine Grech Wendin

Systems and Servers

TRENDS **Three-Way Calling** Put your phone line to work with a new Compaq Presario PC. The system's ADSL modem requires no special wiring by the phone company, yet delivers a zippy 1.5Mbps connection plus voice calls. Even better, the built-in Tut Systems HomeRun networking kit plugs into that home phone line so you can share the ADSL bandwidth with all your home PCs.

Retail PC Sales
(percentage of market)

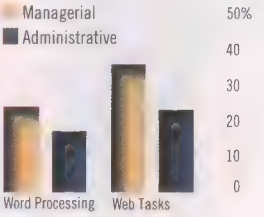


SOURCE: ZD MARKET INTELLIGENCE

Low-Price Leaders Everyone loves a bargain—especially PC buyers. Last year's attention-getting sub-$1,000 systems are no passing fad. In fact, computers that cost less than a grand now dominate retail sales. Slightly more expensive systems make up the next biggest share. Today the average selling price of a new PC is just $1,120—that's down 19 percent from last year.

Memory Boost You don't need to buy a new PC to get a big uptick in performance. Simply doubling your system's RAM—from 16MB to 32MB—will make apps fly. In our tests we found that such a memory upgrade increased overall productivity for managers by 38 percent, while administrative workers realized a 16 percent gain. The boost was slightly less for word processing and Web tasks, but a $50 memory upgrade still pays for itself in just one day for a manager or one week for an administrative worker.

Return on Investment
(percent increase in productivity)



SOURCE: PC COMPUTING BUSINESS LABS

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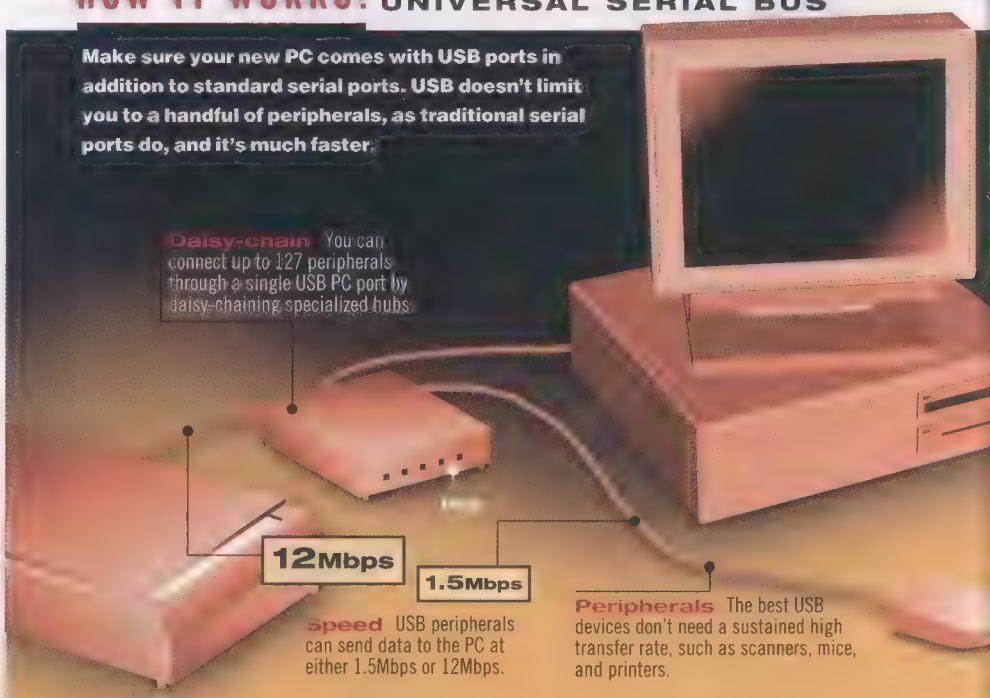
Digital Office

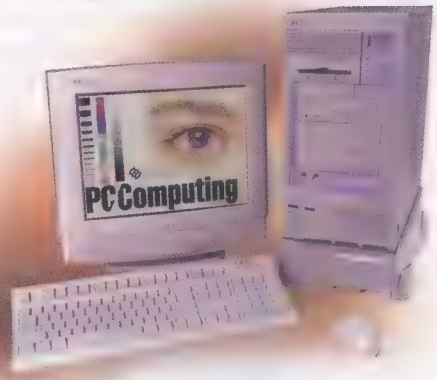
86 Business Tools

HOW IT WORKS: UNIVERSAL SERIAL BUS

Make sure your new PC comes with USB ports in addition to standard serial ports. USB doesn't limit you to a handful of peripherals, as traditional serial ports do, and it's much faster.



Sony VAIO PCV-E308DS



Hewlett-Packard Kayak XU PC Workstation

EDITOR'S A-List PICKS

STATE-OF-THE-ART DESKTOP PC

Dell Dimension XPS R450 Katmai—Intel's 500MHz Pentium II CPU—is right around the corner. That puts 450MHz Pentium IIs in the sweet spot. And none is a better value than the Dimension XPS R450. Its 128MB of RAM, 14.4GB hard drive, 16MB TNT-based graphics card, and DVD drive deliver outstanding Windows 98 or NT performance.

$2,539 est. street price / Dell Computer Corp. / (800) 388-8542 / enter 671 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

HIGH-PERFORMANCE PC

Dell Dimension XPS R400 If you're looking for performance, the choice is easy. Dell's Dimension XPS R400 packs a fast 400MHz Pentium II processor and comes equipped with 128MB of RAM, a 14.4GB hard drive, a DVD drive, and a Zip drive.

$2,379 est. street price / Dell Computer Corp. / (800) 388-8542 / enter 672 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

DESKTOP WORKHORSE PC

Hewlett-Packard Vectra VL Series 7 You're not buying just one PC for personal use; you need to equip the entire department. And that's where the Vectra VL Series 7 comes in. For less than $2,000 you get a smart, powerful system: a 333MHz Pentium II, 64MB of RAM, a 10GB hard drive, an 8MB graphics card, and a network card.

$1,997 est. street price / Hewlett-Packard / (800) 322-4772

LOW-COST DESKTOP PC

Acer Aspire 1832 How low can you go? PCs are well below a grand, but it doesn't pay to skimp. The best compromise between price and performance is the Aspire 1832. Its 266MHz AMD K6 processor, 32MB of RAM, 5.4GB hard drive, 24X CD-ROM drive, and 56Kbps modem give you enough juice to run even the most demanding apps.

$900 est. street price / Acer America / (800) 733-2237 / enter 673 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

SOHO/HOME ENTERTAINMENT PC

Sony VAIO PCV-E308DS It's much more than a PC; it's the video-editing setup you've always wanted. Simply plug a digital video camera into its FireWire port to create a movie masterpiece. Or control a MiniDisc player from the computer's S-link port. You'll also get all the software you need to create these masterpieces—and plenty of horsepower.

$2,800 est. street price / Sony Electronics / (888) 315-7669 / enter 674 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

WORKSTATION PC

Hewlett-Packard Kayak XU PC Workstation You don't need a specialized RISC machine to drive your graphics or CAD work. The Kayak's dual 400MHz Xeon processors fill the bill. They're helped by 256MB of RAM and dual SCSI hard drives.

$6,690 est. street price / Hewlett-Packard / (800) 752-0900

SMALL-BUSINESS SERVER

Cobalt Qube 2700WG Thin is definitely in when it comes to entry-level servers. The Qube proves you don't need to pay a fortune—or face a lot of hassles—to set up an intranet or equip a small workgroup. Simply plug in this Linux-based box, then manage it from your PC's browser.

Starts at $1,249 est. street price / Cobalt Networks / (650) 930-2500 / enter 675 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

WORKGROUP SERVER

Compaq ProLiant 1600 It just might be the perfect server. Whether serving up files, applications, or Web pages, the ProLiant 1600 rose above the pack in our tests. It even performed better as network loads increased. And no wonder: It's stocked with dual 400MHz Pentium II CPUs, 512MB of RAM, and six 4.3GB hard drives.

$10,591 est. street price / Compaq Computer Corp. / enter 676 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

DEPARTMENTAL SERVER

Compaq ProLiant 6000 Xeon Bring in the heavy artillery. The ProLiant 6000 Xeon starts you with a pair of 400MHz Xeon processors, then lets you move up to four when you're ready. You also get room for 8GB of RAM and 18 hot-swappable hard drives.

$31,961 est. street price / Compaq Computer Corp. / enter 677 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Cobalt Qube 2700WG

For more information go to **www.pccomputing.com/getnow**

By Wendy Taylor and Marty Jerome

Portable Payoff Companies that quail at spending $1,500 for a desktop PC often shell out twice that amount for a notebook. Why? The payoff in productivity for mobile workers typically recoups the cost. Even as notebook prices continue to fall—some now sell for less than a grand—total outlays for portable PCs are soaring.

Big Little Guns It's hardly surprising that portable PCs are the fastest-growing segment of the computer industry. Not only do greater hordes of businesspeople travel with them, but more workers now use them exclusively in the office and on the road, shunning desktop PCs altogether.

Notebook PC Sales
(in millions of units worldwide)

SOURCE: DATAQUEST

EDITOR'S A-List PICKS

PORTABLE DESKTOP REPLACEMENT

New

IBM ThinkPad 770X If only your desktop PC were as powerful and well designed as IBM's 7.1-pound top-drawer ThinkPad 770X notebook. From its 14.1-inch active-matrix display—which is sharper than a traditional monitor—to its swappable DVD and 8.1GB hard drives, the ThinkPad 770X is a technological tour de force for work at the office or on the road.

$4,099 est. street price / IBM Corp. / (800) 426-7255 / enter 678 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

LIGHTWEIGHT TRAVELING COMPANION

Toshiba Portégé 3010CT Life on the road is bad enough without adding throbbing shoulders and lower-back pain to your woes. That's why the best traveling machine you'll find is Toshiba's Portégé 3010CT. It weighs less than 3 pounds, yet packs a 10.4-inch active-matrix display, a fast Pentium II processor, and all the bells and whistles you'd expect from Toshiba.

$1,999 est. street price / Toshiba / (800) 867-4422 / enter 679 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

LOW-COST PORTABLE

Toshiba Satellite 2505CDS With budgets shriveling up at companies everywhere, the hunt for the most notebook at the lowest price is on. Toshiba's 6.7-pound Satellite 2505CDS costs less than $1,200, but it serves up a 233MHz Pentium CPU, 32MB of RAM, and a 12.1-inch color screen. And the machine's design and usability are up to Toshiba's exacting standards.

$1,199 est. street price / Toshiba / (800) 867-4422 / enter 681 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

WORKHORSE PORTABLE

NEC Technologies Versa SX The Versa SX has it all: power, versatility, and refined design. The machine's 300MHz Pentium II processor and 64MB of RAM serve up plenty of brawn, while its 14.1-inch active-matrix display and 4GB hard drive give you everything you need to stay productive on the road. And the 5.4-pound traveling weight is gentle on the shoulders.

$3,099 est. street price / NEC Technologies / (888) 863-2699 / enter 680 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

HANDHELD PORTABLE

3Com Palm III Connected Organizer If a computer is small enough to fit in your pocket, you *should* be leery of its usability—unless that PC is 3Com's Palm III. Its elegant and fuss-free design make palm-based scheduling and contact management a no-brainer. And it syncs up with your desktop PC at the touch of a button. Lots of great apps are available too.

$369 est. street price / 3Com / (800) 881-7256 / enter 682 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

BUYER'S CHECKLIST:

PERFECT NOTEBOOK KEYBOARD

Functional Notice the familiar spacing between the F4/F5 and F8/F9 keys?

Two of a Kind It has dual Alt and Ctrl keys—just like your desktop PC.

Control A pointing stick is more accurate than a touch pad.

No Skimping Full-size Tab, Enter, and Backspace keys let fingers fly.

Out of the Way Cursor controls drop below the Shift key.

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Infolink 388 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

www.visa.com

For more information go to **www.pccomputing.com/getnow**

By Kyla K. Carlson

TRENDS **Wait No More** Monochrome documents are no longer retro—they're old-fashioned. With today's affordable color lasers, now you can update too. Built around a new engine, the Lexmark Optra Color 1200n serves up color pages as fast as it does monochrome ones. And if $7,000 stings the budget too much, check out Tektronix's Phaser 740 sub-$2,000 color laser (see page 112).

EDITOR'S A-List PICKS

PERSONAL LASER PRINTER

NEC SuperScript 870 You can't argue with the price, especially when it buys a printer that makes no sacrifices. Put the 8-ppm SuperScript on your desk, and you never need to use the network printer again—or the copy machine, for that matter. And its crisp output and winning speed won't disappoint.

$349 est. street price / NEC Technologies / (800) 632-4636 / enter 683 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New HIGH-SPEED LASER PRINTER

Lexmark Optra S 1255 Didn't think laser printers could get any better? Then clearly you haven't seen the stunning 1,200-dpi output from the Optra S 1255. But looks alone don't make this printer a winner. With a 12-ppm engine, it's fast—fast enough to support a small network. But it's also inexpensive enough to keep for yourself.

$999 est. street price / Lexmark Int'l / (800) 539-6275 / enter 684 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

HIGH-SPEED NETWORK LASER PRINTER

Xerox DocuPrint N32 Imagine never waiting in line at the network printer again. You'd think a machine that churns out pages as fast and as good looking as this one would cost a fortune. But at less than $3,000, the 32-ppm DocuPrint N32 is so affordable you can buy two. The only downside? There goes your excuse for not getting that proposal out the door sooner.

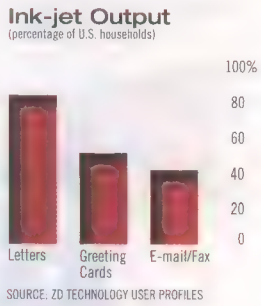
$2,900 est. street price / Xerox Corp. / (800) 349-3769 / enter 685 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

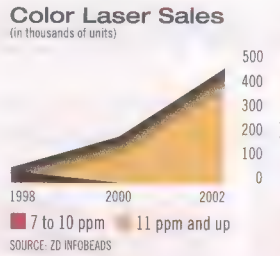
PERSONAL COLOR PRINTER

Epson Stylus Color 850 Make your documents rise to the top of the pile with stunning color output. The Stylus Color 850's vibrant colors and smooth images make it the ideal companion for your laser workhorse. It does a good job with photos too. And at just $349, how can you resist?

$349 est. street price / Epson America / (800) 463-7766

Paying Too Much Almost 90 percent of households that own ink-jet printers use them for printing letters. While an ink-jet printer costs just a few hundred dollars, that's like throwing money away. Printing the same documents with a laser printer costs just pennies per page vs. 10 times that using an ink jet. The next most common items printed on an ink jet? Greeting cards that need color and e-mail or faxes that don't.





Quick Color Affordable network printers like the $6,949 Lexmark Optra Color 1200n are causing a surge in the sales of color lasers. But low prices aren't the only lure: Businesses want color documents as quickly as they're used to getting black-and-white printouts. By the year 2000, poky color lasers will vanish altogether.

NETWORK COLOR LASER

Lexmark Optra Color 1200n Lexmark has rewritten the book on color laser printing. Gone are the days of slow print speeds. Unbelievably, the Optra 1200n produces both color and monochrome documents at a speedy 12 ppm. Just as important, its cost per page is a fraction of that $300 ink-jet printer's. So pay now, and save later.

$6,949 est. street price / Lexmark Int'l / (800) 539-6275 / enter 686 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

PERSONAL PHOTO PRINTER

Hewlett-Packard PhotoSmart Photo Printer HP's low-cost PhotoSmart serves up prints worthy of framing—for just a dollar a photo. You get stunning colors and excellent photo detail. And for easy photo touch-ups, HP also throws in Microsoft's Picture It 2.0.

$299 est. street price / Hewlett-Packard / (800) 752-0900

New PROFESSIONAL PHOTO PRINTER

Imaging Technologies ColorImage 3000 There's no such thing as good enough when you're printing professional photos. That's why you need the ColorImage 3000's unsurpassed color matching. Thanks to its ICC color-matching profiles, the ColorImage 3000 churns out prints so vivid and real you'll have trouble distinguishing duplicates from the originals.

$8,499 list price / Imaging Technologies Corp. / (800) 756-0556 / enter 687 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

NEC SuperScript 870

Lexmark Optra S 1255

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For more information go to **www.pccomputing.com/getnow**

By Martin Sargent

TRENDS **Big Blue Shrinks** IBM recently unveiled its Microdrive, a 4,500-rpm hard disk the size of a Triscuit cracker. Despite its lilliputian dimensions, the Microdrive holds 340MB, the equivalent of 226 floppy disks. Fitting into Type II PC Card slots, the drive will find a home in high-end digital cameras and handheld computers by summertime.

EDITOR'S A-List PICKS

DESKTOP HARD DRIVE

New

IBM Deskstar 22GXP If you stacked copies of *War and Peace* 400 stories high, you'd have about 22GB of data (not to mention an unhealthy infatuation with Tolstoy). A space-saving alternative for that skyscraper of information is IBM's Deskstar 22GXP. Its vast storage doesn't come at the expense of speed either: This 7,200-rpm EIDE drive bests many SCSI offerings.

$599 est. street price / IBM Corp. / (888) 426-5214 / enter 688 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

REMOVABLE STORAGE

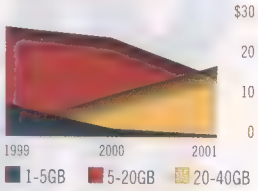
New

Iomega Zip Plus The Zip Plus is to your hard drive what a Coleman cooler is to your refrigerator. Its 100MB cartridges are perfect for toting fat files between work and home. And because just about everyone has a Zip or Zip Plus, you can be certain that wherever your job takes you, you'll find a drive to read your files.

$170 est. street price / Iomega Corp. / (800) 697-8833 / enter 689 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Now for the Big News IBM's new Deskstar 25GP is the most capacious desktop hard drive ever made. The company created the first hard drive in 1956. It was the size of two refrigerators. At 25GB, the paperback-size Deskstar holds 5,000 times as much as that first unit. Look for hard drive capacity to climb up to 40GB and beyond in the next few years.

Storage Sales
(in billions of dollars)



SOURCE: DISK/TREND

HIGH-CAPACITY REMOVABLE STORAGE

New

Iomega Jaz 2GB Walk into any design office and you'll see people tossing around Jaz cartridges the same way you toss around floppy disks. That's because with one $125 cartridge you can store 2,000 digital photos, over three hours of music, or nearly two hours of video. And the drive's engine runs fast enough to stream that video or serve up demanding apps like Adobe Photoshop.

$400 est. street price / Iomega Corp. / (800) 697-8833 / enter 690 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

DVD/CD-ROM DRIVE

New

Sony DDU 220E/H 5X DVD-ROM Bundle Finally, a wide range of DVD titles to choose from. Now you really need a state-of-the-art disc player. Sony's cutting-edge 5X drive is precisely that. It even includes Funk & Wagnall's Encyclopedia and Activision's Zork Grand Inquisitor, two DVD titles to get you started.

$349 list price / Sony Electronics / (800) 352-7669 / enter 691 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

RECORDABLE STORAGE

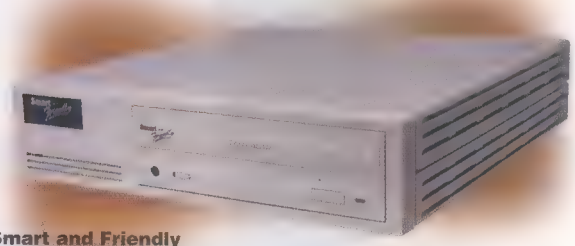
Smart and Friendly CD•SpeedWriter Deluxe Thanks to rebates, blank recordable CDs are just this side of free (read: unlimited storage). The best way to take advantage of the situation is with Smart and Friendly's dependable 4X-write, 12X-read CD•SpeedWriter Deluxe. It burns a full 650MB disc in less than 20 minutes and includes easy-to-use CD-creation software.

$499 est. street price / Smart and Friendly / (800) 959-7001 / enter 692 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

NETWORK STORAGE

Seagate Cheetah 18 Now that you're a grownup, you *want* a monster in your closet. Your server closet, that is. This 10,000-rpm Ultra 2 SCSI beast is precisely what networks crave. With an average seek time of 5.7ms and an internal transfer rate of up to 231Mbps, it's ideal for video professionals too.

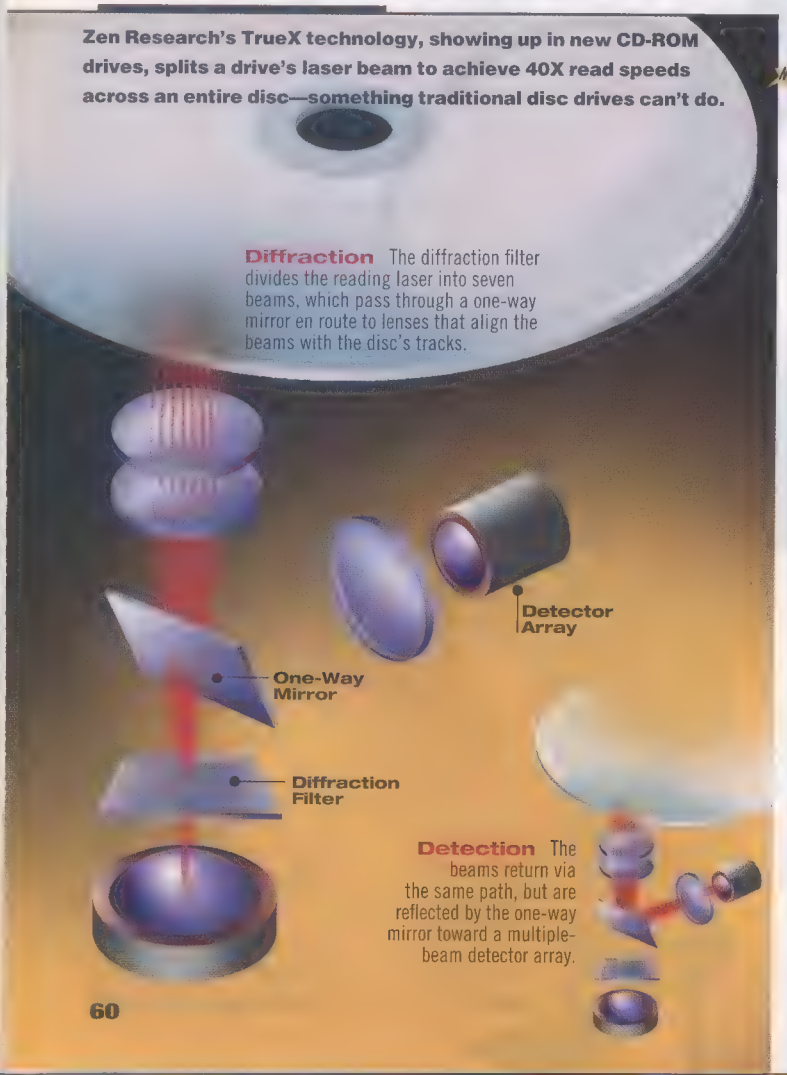
$999 est. street price / Seagate Technology / (800) 732-4283 / enter 693 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink



Smart and Friendly CD•SpeedWriter Deluxe

HOW IT WORKS: MULTIBEAM CD

Zen Research's TrueX technology, showing up in new CD-ROM drives, splits a drive's laser beam to achieve 40X read speeds across an entire disc—something traditional disc drives can't do.



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Infolink 102 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

For more information go to **www.pccomputing.com/getnow**

By Liesl La Grange Noble

TRENDS

Buttoned Up Keyboards that only type and mice that simply point and click are passé. Logitech's $40 Internet keyboard and Kensington's $59 WebRacer touch pad include special buttons for navigating your Web browser. Best of all, they have extended cords so you can lean back in your chair and relax while surfing.

Return on Investment Want to add photos to a presentation? A service bureau charges $50 per hour. Then there's the price of your time spent on trips to and from the service bureau—$30 per hour. Averaging just two projects a month, you'll recoup the money spent on a $150 scanner—and your time to do the project yourself—in two months.

EDITOR'S A-List PICKS

PERSONAL DOCUMENT SCANNER

New

Visioneer PaperPort OneTouch 5300 Here's one of the easiest and most affordable ways to scan all your desktop clutter. It's like having your very own MFD, only smaller and cheaper. The OneTouch 5300 has five handy buttons on the front of the unit to launch scanning, printing, copy and fax utilities, and other apps. Choose either a USB or parallel-port version.

$129 est. street price / Visioneer / (800) 787-7007 / enter 694 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

GRAPHICS SCANNER

New

Epson Expression 800 Executive High-quality scans don't have to mean headaches or an expensive trip to Kinko's. Epson's 36-bit color flatbed Expression 800 Executive scanner delivers high-resolution scans that are incredibly true to the original. You'll also love the handy software bundle that gives you professional results with minimal effort.

$699 est. street price / Epson America / (800) 463-7766

DIGITAL CAMERA

Kodak Digital Science DC260 Zoom Camera Who says you have to sacrifice features with a digital camera? The Kodak Digital Science DC260 Zoom Camera's 1,536-by-1,024 resolution, 3X optical zoom, accessible controls via LCD, and easy connection to your PC all mean you won't be giving up a thing.

$899 est. street price / Eastman Kodak / (800) 235-6325 / enter 695 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

SOUND CARD

Creative Labs SoundBlaster Live No more uninspired audio with the SoundBlaster Live. Its PCI audio with 256 voices, true 3-D surround sound, and generous software bundle wake up games, music, even presentations. Plug in a four-piece speaker set and really have some fun.

$199 est. street price / Creative Labs / (800) 998-5227 / enter 696 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

SPEAKERS

MidiLand S2 4100 It's not the size of the subwoofer that counts, but the one that comes with the S2 4100 will blow the doors off your office. And the four-piece set's sleek design looks cool too. Who needs a separate stereo when you've got this 100-watt PC sound system pumping out tunes?

$400 est. street price / MidiLand / (888) 592-1168 / enter 697 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

UNINTERRUPTIBLE POWER SUPPLY

American Power Conversion Back-UPS Pro 650 One surge is all it takes to fry your PC—and wipe out hours (years!) of work. The best protection is Back-UPS Pro 650. Its long battery life, 650 VA protection, three battery-backup outlets, and three surge-only outlets withstand the most violent tempests.

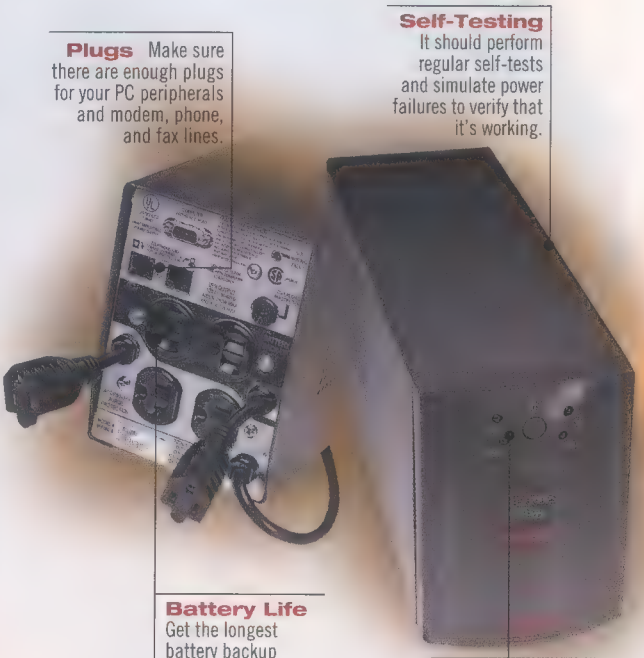
$265 est. street price / American Power Conversion / (800) 800-4272 / enter 698 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

INPUT DEVICE

Logitech Cordless Wheel Mouse Liberate your mouse from the rat's nest of cables overtaking your desk with a wireless device that really works. Its RF technology means you don't even need to point the Cordless Wheel Mouse at the receiver to make it work. And thanks to the handy scroll wheel, you can navigate up and down Web pages with the flick of a finger.

$60 est. street price / Logitech / (800) 732-3039 / enter 699 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

BUYER'S CHECKLIST: UPS



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Infolink 101 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

For more information go to **www.pccomputing.com/getnow**

By Alexei Oreskovic

TRENDS **Studio City** Graphics workstations aren't just for professionals anymore. With hardware like the Matrox Marvel G200-TV and the Canon Optura it's easier and more affordable than ever to turn your PC into a digital audiovisual studio. Feed your system full-motion video, add some audio, and mix your own masterpieces.

EDITOR'S A-List PICKS

New HIGH-RESOLUTION 17/19-INCH MONITOR

Iiyama North America VisionMaster 450 Take a look at your next monitor. This 19-incher shows great-looking images and vibrant colors. Iiyama's VisionMaster 450 supports 1,600 by 1,200 resolution at an eye-pleasing 80Hz and boasts a .26mm dot pitch. Intuitive onboard controls make the VisionMaster 450 easy to use, and its price is hard to beat.

$659 est. street price / Iiyama North America / (800) 594-7480 / enter 700 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New HIGH-RESOLUTION 20/21-INCH MONITOR

Sony Multiscan GDM-F500 Computer Display with FD Trinitron LCDs aren't the only displays with flat screens. Sony's Multiscan GDM-F500 is a standard CRT monitor, yet its screen is flat as a pancake. This beautiful 21-inch monitor supports resolutions up to 1,800 by 1,440, and the clever design makes it easy to fine-tune.

$1,900 est. street price / Sony Electronics / (800) 352-7669 / enter 701 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New FLAT-PANEL DISPLAY

Silicon Graphics Digital Flat Panel Solution Pack Forget about puny 14-inch flat-panel monitors. This bundle gives you 17.3 inches of screen space and boasts a unique Super Wide format, so you can have multiple apps open side by side. And the included 32MB Number Nine Visual Technologies Revolution IV graphics card makes it the ultimate digital flat-panel experience.

$2,795 est. street price / Silicon Graphics / (888) 744-7373 / enter 702 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

HIGH-PERFORMANCE GRAPHICS ACCELERATOR

Matrox Graphics Millennium G200 If you want dazzling, speedy graphics, then you need the Millennium G200. It's tops in 2-D speed and offers excellent 3-D speed. And while the 8MB of RAM has you covered for today's standard apps, you can easily upgrade to 16MB tomorrow.

$129 est. street price / Matrox Graphics / (800) 844-8305 / enter 703 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

3-D GAMES ACCELERATOR

Diamond Multimedia Systems Viper V550 Today's demanding games require plenty of muscle. Thankfully, the Viper V550 fills the bill with high resolution, excellent image quality, and fast performance. Based on nVidia's Riva TNT chip, this 2-D/3-D graphics accelerator comes with 16MB of RAM and is ready to drive your monitor to 1,920 by 1,200 resolution.

$170 est. street price / Diamond Multimedia Systems / (800) 468-5846 / enter 704 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

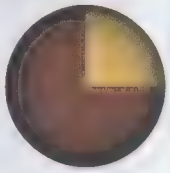
PRESENTATION DISPLAY/PROJECTOR

In Focus LP425 The LP425 should be standard issue for all road warriors. This 6.8-pound projector won't slow you down as you scramble across distant tarmacs, and it won't let you down when you fire it up in tense meeting rooms. This little DLP projector will help you clinch the deal with a bright, crisp, and colorful image—even with the lights on.

$4,100 est. street price / In Focus / (800) 294-6400 / enter 705 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Going Digital Analog LCDs are on their way out. Digital LCDs, which offer a cleaner, crisper, distortion-free image, are expected to make up about one-quarter of sales by the year 2000. Look for graphics-card makers to start offering digital outputs—plus standard VGA connectors—on new cards for these LCDs in the months ahead. (For more details, see "How It Works," page 234.)

Desktop LCD Sales
(percentage of market in 2000)



SOURCE: DISPLAYSEARCH

DIGITAL CAMCORDER

Canon Optura Digital camcorders come in all shapes and sizes, but the Optura's 35mm camera-inspired design is our favorite. You'll love shooting its sharp and smooth footage or crisp still shots with the Optura cradled in your hand.

$2,699 list price / Canon U.S.A. / (800) 652-2666 / enter 706 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

DIGITAL VIDEO CAPTURE

Matrox Graphics Marvel G200-TV Hook up this package to your PC, and there's nothing you can't do. The TV tuner and 2-D/3-D graphics accelerator let you surf the tube or blaze through fast-paced games. And with Marvel's video-capture card and video-editing software you can create and edit your own movies too.

$299 est. street price / Matrox Graphics / (800) 844-8305 / enter 707 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

BUYER'S CHECKLIST: DIGITAL CAMCORDER

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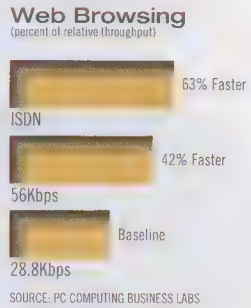
For more information go to **www.pccomputing.com/getnow**

By Lulit Bezuayehu

TRENDS **Broadband Showdown** A quantum leap in bandwidth is coming, but you'll have to pick your pipe: DSL or cable. Which you choose mostly depends on what service providers are in your area. Dell Computer aims to make things easy by supporting both services—plus satellite. For details, see its Web site at www.dell.com.

Instant Payback If you're still slogging along with a 28.8Kbps modem, you're throwing money away. A speedier Web connection means you get work done faster—it boosts your Web browsing from 42 to 63 percent—and that contributes to your bottom line. Productivity tests in *PC Computing*'s Business Labs found that a 56K modem's speed increase pays for itself in just six days and saves you nearly $10,000 per year. An ISDN modem saves you even more: It pays for itself in three days and nets you over $33,000.



EDITOR'S A-List PICKS

HIGH-SPEED FAX MODEM

3Com U.S. Robotics 56K Faxmodem Broadband Web access may be right around the corner, but in the meantime you need a reliable dial-up connection. For fast Internet access via your analog line, don't settle for anything less than a V.90 56K modem. 3Com's U.S. Robotics 56K Faxmodem gives you this speed plus all the software you need to make connections painless.

$149 for external, est. street price / 3Com Corp. / (800) 638-3266 / enter 708 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New HIGH-SPEED INTERNET ACCESS

Hughes Network Systems DirecDuo Why hassle with installing ISDN or waiting for your cable or phone company to offer something faster? Look to the DirecDuo instead, and get 400Kbps downstream Web access. And when you're done surfing the Web, tune in one of its 400-plus channels on your TV set.

$450 est. street price, plus monthly Internet and TV service charges / Hughes Network Systems / (800) 347-3272 / enter 709 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

DESKTOP VIDEOCONFERENCING

PictureTel Live200 Desktop Videoconferencing System Collaborate with colleagues face-to-face from anywhere on Earth. PictureTel's Live 200 gives you everything you need to set up a foolproof ISDN-based videoconferencing system. Audio and video quality are top-notch, and application sharing is so simple you may never set foot in the office again.

$1,295 est. street price / PictureTel Corp. / (800) 716-6000 / enter 710 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

LAN ADAPTER

3Com Fast EtherLink XL PCI TX 10/100 Network Interface Card If you're planning to move to Fast Ethernet but aren't sure when, you'll love 3Com's 10/100 network card. This LAN adapter card gives you both regular and Fast Ethernet, hassle-free setup, and reliable performance at a pleasing price.

$89 est. street price / 3Com Corp. / (800) 638-3266 / enter 711 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

PC CARD MODEM

3Com Megahertz 56K Global Modem Business trips are tough enough. The last thing you need is a faulty connection. Get the 56K Global Modem for fast and reliable connections every time. It comes armed with Digital Line Guard to protect you from PBX damage.

$269 est. street price / 3Com Corp. / (800) 638-3266 / enter 712 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

3Com Megahertz 56K Global Modem

PC CARD NETWORK ADAPTER

Xircom RealPort CardBus Ethernet 10/100+Modem 56 Buy the best portable network adapter, and get a reliable 56K modem for free. Save a PC Card slot without giving up a thing. The versatile RealPort supports both regular and Fast Ethernet networks plus modem connections via an analog telephone line or GSM cell phone. And since 3Com builds the connectors right into the card, you'll never have to worry about lost, forgotten, or broken cable connectors again.

$399 est. street price / Xircom / (800) 438-4526 / enter 713 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New NETWORK HUB/ROUTER

Ramp Networks WebRamp 300e Give everyone on your network high-speed Internet access through a single, affordable router. Ideal for small networks, the WebRamp 300e is an Ethernet router and four-port hub all in one. Unlike connections through individual ISDN lines, the WebRamp offers firewall protection from unauthorized outsiders. And setup is simple thanks to its Connection Wizard.

$499 list price / Ramp Networks / (888) 726-7638 / enter 714 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

STEP BY STEP: START TALKING

Can't seem to get your modem to work? Before you call tech support, follow these handy tips.

Step 1 Check that your computer and modem can talk to one another. Choose Control Panel, Modem, Diagnostics.

Step 2 Turn up the modem's speaker volume so you can hear it trying to establish a connection to your ISP. To do this, check the settings in the Control Panel's Modem applet.

Step 3 Test the phone jack and line using a regular phone. Also make sure that you have call waiting disabled. Do this from the Control Panel's Modem settings.

MultiSync is a registered trademark and LCD1810, XtraView, "Expect more. Experience more." and the NEC Technologies icon are trademarks of NEC Technologies, Inc. ©1998 NEC Technologies, Inc.

Learn about our complete line of MultiSync LCD monitors. Call (800) NEC-INFO, or visit www.nectech.com. Expect more. Experience more.

Infolink 221 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

For more information go to www.pccomputing.com/getnow

By Leslie Ayers

TRENDS **Office Talk** So you live in Microsoft Office? Now you can do your accounting there too—without learning an entirely new app. BestWare MYOB Accounting Plus 8 and Intuit QuickBooks Pro 99 both let you mail-merge with Word for quick collections letters and other correspondence, and painlessly import data to Excel for analysis and charting.

EDITOR'S A-List PICKS

BUSINESS APPLICATION SUITE

Microsoft Office 97 Professional Put it to work for your business. Office 97 Professional offers the top word processor, spreadsheet, database, presentation package, information manager, and e-mail application. The Small Business Edition subs in Microsoft's desktop publishing whiz, Publisher, for Access and PowerPoint. Stay tuned for the shipping version of Office 2000, which promises even more Web savvy and integration, plus artificial intelligence.

$599 est. street price / Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400 / enter 715 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

PERSONAL FINANCE

Intuit Quicken Deluxe 99 *Pssst.* Looking for an investment that's guaranteed to give great returns? Quicken Deluxe is a sure thing. The latest version of the financial manager from Intuit acts as your trusted adviser, financial analyst, and personal bookkeeper. Sleek Web integration means all your info is up to date—and online banking and bill payment are just a click away.

$60 est. street price / Intuit / (800) 446-8848 / enter 716 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

ACCOUNTING

Intuit QuickBooks Pro 6.0 Who needs a CPA? With QuickBooks Pro 6.0 you can manage your business's finances yourself—no accounting degree required. Network support means you can let your employees access selected portions of your books. And you can stop buying aspirin by the case to ease your payroll headaches: Intuit's online payroll service makes that chore a snap.

$219 est. street price / Intuit / (800) 446-8848 / enter 717 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

PROJECT MANAGER

Microsoft Project 98 Close the loop on every job your company starts. Not a project management expert? No problem. Project 98's wizards have you up and running quickly. For the pros there are flexible and advanced features like multiple views and task splitting. Project 98's Web smarts let you post current projects to the Web or your company intranet and keep all team members up to date.

$499 est. street price / Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400 / enter 718 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

PERSONAL INFORMATION MANAGER

Microsoft Outlook 98 More than just a flexible e-mail app, Outlook 98 has excellent contact management and scheduling too. And it's free to Microsoft Office users. Start your day from a single window with a view of all your meetings, to-dos, and messages. It will even presort your e-mail with the Rules Wizard.

$109 est. street price / Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400 / enter 719 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

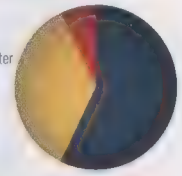
CONTACT MANAGER

Symantec Act 4.0 Finally, an assistant that doesn't need time off (or flowers on Secretary's Day). With Act on the job, you won't lose track of a single detail—contacts, appointments, and more. Its Web integration lets you capture online resources too. Want more? Turbocharge Act with slick add-ons from Practical Sales Tools (www.pstools.com).

$200 est. street price / Symantec / (800) 441-7234 / enter 720 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Easy to Please Most people get the CD-based apps they use daily, like word processors and spreadsheets, bundled free with new hardware. The rest of PC or CD-ROM–drive purchasers either wait to buy specific programs later or add the software they want to their hardware bill. What does this mean? Most people are happy with commonly bundled software like Word, Excel, and Quicken. Or they're just cheapskates.

Software Acquisition
(percentage of productivity apps purchased)



SOURCE: ZD MARKET INTELLIGENCE,TUP98

New VOICE RECOGNITION SOFTWARE

Lernout & Hauspie Voice Xpress Professional Put the future on your desktop—today. Dictate into any Microsoft Office 97 application, control formatting, save, print, and more. Impressive accuracy and flexible command options make Voice Xpress Pro an excellent replacement for keyboard and mouse. Current users: Improve performance with the latest patch, available at www.lhs.com.

$150 est. street price / Lernout & Hauspie / (888) 537-6688 / enter 721 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

COLLABORATION AND E-MAIL

Novell GroupWise 5.5 A few cuts above basic e-mail, GroupWise 5.5 makes teamwork a snap. Coworkers can stay on top of assignments—even if they're scattered far and wide. An improved wizard-based setup gets you off to a quicker start, and the new document library keeps versions straight and saves server space.

Starts at $718 est. street price / Novell / (800) 453-1267 / enter 722 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New CD/DVD TITLE

Red Orb Entertainment Riven: The Sequel to Myst Sure, productivity apps help you work faster and better. But we know what you really want to do: play. Riven proves that explosions, automatic weapons, and bikini-clad babes are not what make a great PC game. It's the luxurious graphics, riveting story, and mind-twisting puzzles that keep you entertained for hours.

$45 for CD, $50 for DVD, est. street prices / Red Orb Entertainment / (800) 548-1798 / enter 723 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

PAYOFF: SOUND CHOICES

The problem with today's voice apps is that they don't all do the same things. Here's how to get what you need.

Goal: Control Windows with your voice, plus do dictation.

Solution: Replace your keyboard and mouse with IBM ViaVoice 98 or Lernout & Hauspie Voice Xpress Professional.

Goal: Dictate documents and e-mail messages instead of typing.

Solution: The hands-down accuracy champ is Dragon Systems Dragon NaturallySpeaking Preferred.

Goal: Voice recognition on the road.

Solution: Try the pocket-size Olympus D1000 Digital Voice Recorder.

If a 6.8 pound projector can influence the entire computer industry, imagine what it can do for your meetings.

Why would PC Magazine rank a humble projector company among the likes of Intel, Microsoft, and the other most influential companies in the computer industry? Good question. They said it's because In Focus is changing the way people use technology; more and more people are projecting from their laptop PCs, making the most of their meetings. They also said it's because of projectors like our revolutionary new 6.8-pound personal series—the ones that earned In Focus an Editors' Choice Award and made us the only projector company on the list. Our personal projectors are so small and so bright, you can project with the lights on. They've become the preferred choice of people everywhere who present on the road. And we've got a full line of industry-leading projectors for conference rooms and fixed installations, too. So for projectors that are affordable, reliable, and just plain make you look great, there's really only one choice. The number-one name in projectors—In Focus.®

It's your image. Project yourself.™

To arrange a free demo, simply call 1-800-294-6400. Or visit us at: www.infocus.com/pcc

DLP™ A TEXAS INSTRUMENTS TECHNOLOGY

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Infolink 240 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

InFocus®
Project yourself.™

For more information go to **www.pccomputing.com/getnow**

By Liesl La Grange Noble

TRENDS **Pro Results** You've got enough stress just trying to meet your deadline without having to worry about color separation or whether you've got the right fonts for those commercial print jobs. Your project will look as good in print as it did on screen thanks to behind-the-scenes wizards and tools in the newly released version of Harvard Publisher and the upcoming Microsoft Publisher 2000.

EDITOR'S A-List PICKS

BUSINESS GRAPHICS

Microsoft PhotoDraw 2000 You don't need a fancy design firm to get top-notch graphics. Even businesses on the tightest of budgets can afford professional-looking promotional materials with Microsoft PhotoDraw 2000. Both a photo editor and a graphics illustrator in one, it's loaded with cool effects, templates, and filters to make you look good.

$149 est. street price / Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400 / enter 724 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

PROFESSIONAL DESKTOP PUBLISHER

Adobe PageMaker 6.5 Do the work once with PageMaker. It includes all the tools you need to make documents look great not only in print but on the Web too. A single click is all it takes to convert your creations to HTML. And you'll love the way it integrates with other Adobe programs.

$895 list price / Adobe Systems / (800) 422-3623 / enter 725 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

PERSONAL DESKTOP PUBLISHER

Microsoft Publisher 98 Who says you have no artistic talent? With Publisher 98 you can turn out slick-looking newsletters, letterhead, and other printed materials. Publisher's wizards make it easy to use, and you'll find a huge selection of customizable templates and other content to make getting started a breeze.

$99 est. street price / Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400 / enter 726 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

ILLUSTRATION AND DESIGN

Adobe Illustrator 8.0 The pros know: When you need high-quality illustrations nothing beats Illustrator 8.0. Get creative with artistic effects like Scatter, which lets you brush on everything from ladybugs to flowers. With its uniform commands and tools similar to other Adobe apps, Illustrator is the perfect companion to Photoshop and PageMaker.

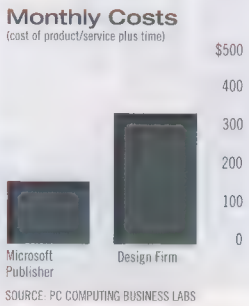
$412 est. street price / Adobe Systems / (800) 685-3587 / enter 727 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

PROFESSIONAL IMAGE EDITOR

Adobe Photoshop 5.0 This photo editor does it all. The latest version of Photoshop brings improved color management and new features aimed at smoother workflow. Another addition you'll appreciate? The multiple levels of undo and redo on the new History palette—great for retracing your steps.

$649 est. street price / Adobe Systems / (800) 492-3623 / enter 728 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Return on Investment Skip the expensive design firm. If you paid a professional to create just one simple brochure, pricing would start at $80 for the master, plus $90 an hour for labor. With Microsoft Publisher, doing two projects yourself pays for the program and then some—even factoring in your time at $30 an hour.



PERSONAL IMAGE EDITOR

MGI PhotoSuite II Who knew an image editor could be so cool? It's loaded with effects and almost every image-editing tool imaginable, yet it's still incredibly easy to use. You'll love its Web integration for a quick and easy way to grab pictures off the Net and drop them into the photo library strip for editing and touch-ups.

$50 est. street price / MGI / (888) 644-7638 / enter 729 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New VIDEO EDITING TOOL

Adobe Premiere 5.0 It's one thing to capture a lot of video on your PC; it's another to edit that video into something worthwhile. And Premiere 5.0 is the best way to manipulate all your footage and create professional-looking films. The elegant and intuitive interface makes short work of complex editing tasks.

$599 est. street price / Adobe Systems / (800) 422-3623 / enter 730 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Adobe PageMaker 6.5

TOP 5: FREE GRAPHICS SITES

The Web is loaded with great graphics freebies. Sure, there's a fair share of Pamela Anderson pictures, but you'll also find thousands of sites full of clip art, icons, Web graphics, and photographs. Link to them all at www.pccomputing.com/getnow.

Broderbund Print Shop Connection A big collection of graphics created especially for Printshop, but these images work with any programs that support EPS and WMF formats.

Free Art Site A wide selection of Web graphics, plus tips on creating your own.

Free Art for HTML More great Web graphics, including lots of 3-D objects.

Freebie Frenzy Web graphics, plus a slew of related freebies.

Free Graphics Start your search here: fractals, backgrounds, graphics, and animations.

Dawn Of The NT Workstation.

THE CLONING PERIOD.

metam

After years of clones, it's time for some new DNA. Introducing the newest addition to the Silicon Graphics® family of visual workstations. The operating system is Windows NT.® And the computer is pure Silicon Graphics. Featuring our Integrated Visual Computing (IVC) architecture with the Cobalt™ graphics chipset, these breakthrough machines move graphics data six times faster than AGP 2X-based workstations*— a massive 3.2GB per second. Translation: you can now get outrageous 2D, 3D and digital media performance on a completely compatible, totally affordable system. What's more, our IVC architecture integrates 10/100 Ethernet, IEEE-1394,† USB and professional video

To get more information, find a local reseller, or to order, call

*Bandwidth based on graphics to main memory. †Requires additional software under Windows 4.0. **I/O bandwidth as compar

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I/O for a blistering 12-fold increase in bandwidth over other PC workstations.** So whether you're into advanced 3D modeling, complex image processing, or video editing, you can now enjoy a level of throughput and graphics quality only Silicon Graphics can deliver. And the price? Less than you think. The Silicon Graphics 320™ workstation starts at just $3,395, less than some add-in graphics cards. Or choose the Silicon Graphics 540™ workstation†† from only $5,995. Ready to handle up to four Intel® Pentium® II Xeon™ processors, it's the most scalable Windows NT workstation around. Either way, you can finally move from PC clones that crawl—to a machine that truly flies.

1 888 SGI-3917 or visit us at **www.sgi.com/go/visual**

d to 32-bit PCI. ††For information on the 1999 availability of the Silicon Graphics 540 workstation, please call 1 888 SGI-3917. Prices quoted are for U.S. only.

intel inside
pentium® II
PROCESSOR

SiliconGraphics

osis

Silicon Graphics 320™ Visual Workstation, starting at $3,395

Base system includes:

- *Integrated Visual Computing (IVC) architecture with Cobalt™ graphics chipset*
- *Single (dual capable) Intel® Pentium® II processor 350MHz (up to 450MHz)*
- *128MB ECC SDRAM (expandable to 1GB)*
- *6GB Ultra ATA drive (expandable to 28GB of storage) or optional Ultra2 SCSI drive*
- *3 available PCI slots on two 64-bit PCI buses*
- *1.44MB floppy drive, 32X max. CD-ROM*
- *Integrated 10/100 Fast Ethernet*
- *IEEE-1394‡ parallel, serial, USB, video and audio ports*
- *Microsoft® Windows NT® 4.0*
- *3-year limited hardware warranty with 1-year onsite service*

Silicon Graphics 320, Modeling Station, $6,343

- *Single Intel® Pentium® II processor 400MHz*
- *256MB ECC SDRAM*
- *9GB Ultra2 SCSI drive*
- *100MB removable storage drive*
- *21" (19.8" viewable) monitor with Trinitron™ technology*

Silicon Graphics 320, Publishing Station, $8,283

- *Dual Intel® Pentium® II processors 400MHz*
- *256MB ECC SDRAM*
- *14.4GB Ultra ATA drive*
- *100MB removable storage drive, Ultra2 SCSI controller*
- *Polk® audio stereo speakers*
- *Silicon Graphics 1600SW™ 17.3" SuperWide™ digital flat panel monitor with ColorLock™ technology**

Silicon Graphics 540™ Visual Workstation,‡† starting at $5,995

Base system includes:

- *Integrated Visual Computing (IVC) architecture with Cobalt™ graphics chipset*
- *Single (quad capable) Intel® Pentium® II Xeon™ processor 450MHz with 512K L2 cache*
- *128MB ECC SDRAM (expandable to 2GB)*
- *9GB Ultra2 SCSI drive (expandable to 54GB of storage)*
- *6 available PCI slots on two 64-bit PCI buses*
- *1.44MB floppy drive, 32X max. CD-ROM*
- *Integrated 10/100 Fast Ethernet*
- *IEEE-1394, parallel, serial, USB, video and audio ports*
- *Microsoft® Windows NT® 4.0*
- *3-year limited hardware warranty with 1-year onsite service*

Silicon Graphics 540, Modeling Station, $9,090

- *Single Intel® Pentium® II Xeon™ processor 450MHz with 512K L2 cache*
- *256MB ECC SDRAM*
- *9GB Ultra2 SCSI drive*
- *Silicon Graphics 1600SW 17.3" SuperWide digital flat panel monitor*

Silicon Graphics 540, A/V Station, $11,657

- *Single Intel® Pentium® II Xeon™ processor 450MHz with 512K L2 cache*
- *128MB ECC SDRAM*
- *Three 9GB Ultra2 SCSI high performance (10,000rpm) drives*
- *Dual stream M-JPEG compression/decompression engine*
- *21" (19.8" viewable) monitor with Trinitron technology*

Silicon Graphics 1600SW Flat Panel Monitor, $2,495**

- *17.3" 1600x1024 TFT SuperWide digital flat panel monitor with ColorLock technology*

SiliconGraphics

To get more information, find a local reseller, or to order, call **1 888 SGI-3917** or visit us at **www.sgi.com/go/visual**

‡Requires additional software under Windows 4.0. *Pre-loaded software, GUI, and gamma sensor device for color calibration. †‡For information on the 1999 availability of the Silicon Graphics 540 workstation, please call 1 888 SGI-3917. **Cost of monitor when purchased with system. Prices quoted are for U.S. only.

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By Rich Schwerin

TRENDS **Megasuites** While system utility behemoths Network Associates and Symantec duke it out and snatch up smaller competitors, the big winner is you. Both companies have just released the low-cost suites McAfee Office ($99) and Norton SystemWorks ($69) that include everything you need to protect, secure, optimize, and repair your PC.

EDITOR'S A-List PICKS

SYSTEM UTILITY

Norton SystemWorks Kiss those separate utilities goodbye. Norton SystemWorks integrates all you need—including Norton Utilities, Norton AntiVirus, and Norton CrashGuard—into one smart megasuite. Plus, a free bonus pack includes Remove-It 98, Norton Mobile Essentials, Visual Page, WinFax Basic Edition, and pcAnywhere Express. What a deal!

$70 est. street price / Symantec / (800) 441-7234 / enter 731 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New NETWORK UTILITY

LANDesk Management Suite 6.2 If overseeing a network mix of NetWare and NT machines is giving you migraines, don't despair. Get LANDesk Management Suite 6.2. It lets you remotely manage, maintain, and protect your network—even distribute software. See? You're feeling better already.

Starts at $62 per desktop in quantities of 100, list price / Intel / (800) 538-3373 / enter 732 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

ANTIVIRUS SOFTWARE

McAfee VirusScan 4.0 What do you mean you don't have virus protection on your system? Run—don't walk—and get a copy of VirusScan 4.0. With its unbeatable scanning and online updates, VirusScan will immunize your system from vexing viruses and nasty bugs, including those hidden in e-mail attachments, shared files, and Internet downloads.

$49 est. street price / Network Associates / (800) 338-8754 / enter 733 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New OCR

OmniPage Pro 9.0 Stop typing and start scanning. Caere's best-of-breed OCR package gets even better in version 9.0. Improved accuracy and new features make it easy to turn hard copy into electronic documents—even hard-to-scan pages like low-grade faxes or those with tiny text and reverse type.

$499 est. street price / Caere / (800) 535-7226 / enter 734 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

DOCUMENT MANAGER

Pagis Pro 2.0 Cut the clutter and find what you're looking for with Pagis Pro 2.0. This top-notch document manager makes it easy to convert your paper documents into electronic image files for smart indexing. Even the most complex documents—reports, photos, you name it—are no match for Pagis Pro.

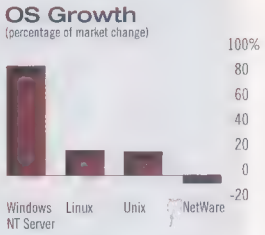
$99 est. street price / ScanSoft, a Xerox Company / (800) 842-0024 / enter 735 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New PRIVACY AND SECURITY

PGP Personal Privacy 6.0 Is someone spying on you? Not if you're using the best personal encryption tool available today. For peanuts PGP Personal Privacy 6.0 locks your desktop secrets away from prying eyes. Its two-key architecture protects your electronic correspondence and lets the receiver know that it's the genuine article. The program helps you stay one step ahead of Big Brother too.

$29 est. street price / Network Associates / (800) 332-9966 / enter 736 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Safe Choices What operating system are you betting your business on? Most shops are choosing Windows NT—especially as they anticipate the release of the mighty NT 5.0 (a.k.a. Windows 2000). But many are opting for powerful Linux despite the dearth of apps. One OS that isn't gaining favor with IT managers? Novell NetWare, down 5 percent in the last year.



SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL DATA CORPORATION, 1998

New APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT

Microsoft Visual Studio 6.0 Enterprise Edition Pop quiz: If you could have only one Windows development tool, which would it be? Answer: Microsoft Visual Studio 6.0 Enterprise Edition. This monster-size suite boasts integrated versions of just about every development tool you'll need, including Visual Basic, Visual FoxPro, Visual J++, Visual C++, and Visual InterDev.

$1,619 est. street price / Microsoft / (800) 621-7930 / enter 737 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New MULTIMEDIA DEVELOPMENT

Macromedia Director 7 Shockwave Internet Studio Web developers: Upgrade to Director 7 Shockwave Internet Studio now. Macromedia's latest top-tier suite includes everything you'll need to bring the Web to life with animation, audio, video, and all things multimedia. Plus, it's the only tool that automatically converts to Macromedia's Shockwave format for speedy, jazzy Web content.

$999 est. street price / Macromedia / (800) 457-1774 / enter 738 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

TOP 5: ANTIVIRUS RESOURCES

How do you stop a virus before it starts? Get a good antivirus product, and arm yourself with information from these key Web sites. Link to them all at www.pccomputing.com/getnow.

Computer Virus Research Center Before you trust that Java applet or invite an ActiveX control onto your system, scan the Computer Virus Help Desk.

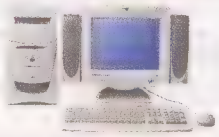
Dr. Solomon's Virus Central Lots of information, including a Virus Gallery (relax, they've been neutralized) and a Virus Encyclopedia.

Computer Virus Myths Or maybe you don't have a virus after all. Here's your one-stop shop for debunking all those virus myths, hoaxes, and urban legends.

Stiller Research So, just how do viruses work, anyway? And who the heck writes them? Find the answers here, at the site hosted by the makers of Integrity Master.

ZDNet Help Channel A wealth of helpful information awaits, including the HealthyPC Help Guide.

BUILT FOR YOU



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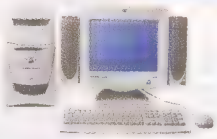

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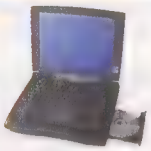

BUILT FOR YOU

$2,549 (with Monitor)

- Intel® Pentium® II Processor, 450 MHz
- 13.0 GB UltraDMA Hard Drive[1]
- 128 MB SyncDRAM expandable to 384 MB
- 6X DVD-ROM Drive[6]
- 56K ITU V.90 Modem[2]
- Diamond Viper 550 AGP w/16 MB SDRAM
- Diamond Monster Sound MX300 PCI Audio Card
- Digital Creativity Imaging Center
- 10 Mbps Ethernet Port, Cable Modem Ready
- Iomega Zip Built-In™ Drive
- Microsoft® Featured Home Collection
- Microsoft Windows®98
- Compaq V910 19" Monitor (18.0" VIA)[4]
- JBL Pro Studio w/Dual Subwoofers (160 watts)

Personalize it by choosing:

- 256 MB SyncDRAM: Add $250
- **Presario FP700 Flat Panel Monitor (15.0" VIA): Add $445**

$1,799 Tremendous Value (with Monitor)

- 400 MHz AMD-K6®-2 processor with 3DNow!™ Technology
- 8.0 GB UltraDMA Hard Drive[1]
- 128 MB SyncDRAM expandable to 384 MB
- 5X DVD-ROM Drive[5]
- 1.5Mb Max Digital Modem[2]
- 2X AGP Graphics w/8 MB SGRAM
- 10 Mbps Ethernet Port, Cable Modem Ready
- Iomega Zip Built-In™ Drive
- Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition
- Microsoft Windows98
- Compaq V720 17" Monitor (15.9" VIA)[4]
- JBL Pro Speakers

Personalize it by choosing:

- 12.0 GB UltraDMA Hard Drive:[1] Add $120
- JBL Pro Premium Speakers w/Subwoofer: Add $69
- Iomega Zip Media 10 pack: Add $99[35]

$1,499 Tremendous Value (with Monitor)

- 350 MHz AMD-K6-2 processor with 3DNow!™ Technology
- 10.0 GB UltraDMA Hard Drive[1]
- 128 MB SyncDRAM expandable to 384 MB
- 5X DVD-ROM Drive[5]
- 56K ITU V.90 Modem[2]
- 2X AGP Graphics w/8 MB SGRAM
- 10 Mbps Ethernet Port, Cable Modem Ready
- Microsoft Featured Home Collection
- Microsoft Windows98
- Compaq V720 17" Monitor (15.9" VIA)[4]
- JBL Pro Speakers

Personalize it by choosing:

- Iomega Zip Built-In™ Drive: Add $99
- 1.5Mb Max Digital Modem:[2] Add $99
- Tripp Lite Super 7 + Tel Surge Protector: Add $29[35]

$2,699 - $100 mail-in rebate**

$2,599

- Intel Pentium II Processor, 300 MHz
- 13.3" TFT Active Matrix Display
- 4.0 GB UltraDMA Hard Drive[1]
- 64 MB SyncDRAM expandable to 160 MB
- 512 KB L2 Pipeline Burst Cache
- 2nd-Generation DVD-ROM Drive[6]
- 56K ITU V.90 Modem[2]
- 256-bit Accelerated Graphics w/2.5 MB VRAM
- Smart Lilon battery
- Microsoft Featured Home Collection
- Microsoft Windows98

Personalize it by choosing:

- 96 MB SyncDRAM: Add $100
- 6.4 GB Hard Drive: Add $200
- Brief Carrying Case: Add $119

Buy one of these computers and get **50 free hours** on the Net.* Plus, get a **$100 rebate** on select Compaq Presario notebook PCs by signing up for this Compaq Easy Internet Access free trial.**

All prices shown are Compaq Direct selling price after applicable rebate. Prices shown do not include applicable sales tax and shipping. Products and prices valid in U.S. only. Actual retail price may vary. Specifications and prices are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Not all Compaq Presario models available in all retail stores. ***50 free hours of Internet access is offered when Compaq Easy Internet Access is chosen from Compaq Internet Setup. Valid only on selected Presario minitower, desktop, and notebook models. For select minitower, desktop, and notebook models: the 50 free hours must be used over a 30-day period from initial setup. A valid credit card is required to initiate service, although no charges will be incurred until the 50-hour trial has expired. **$100 mail-in rebate from Compaq upon activation of this free trial of Compaq Easy Internet Access. Rebate offer valid only in the USA and expires 4/30/99. See rebate coupon included with product for additional terms and conditions.** [4]Monitor shown is Presario MV700. [1]For hard drives, GB = billion bytes. [2]ITU V.90 modems are designed only to allow faster downloads from K56flex or V.90 compliant digital sources. Maximum achievable download transmission rates are currently unknown, may not reach 56 kilobits per second (Kbps), and will vary with line conditions. [2]G.Lite/56K V.90 updates may be downloaded from the Compaq Web site when available. The G.Lite/56K protocol is designed to allow faster downloads from G.Lite/56K V.90 compliant digital sources. Availability of G.Lite/56K V.90 services will vary by region and Internet Service Provider (ISP), and may differ from V.90 ISP services. Maximum achievable download transmission rates with G.Lite/56K V.90 are currently unknown and may not reach 1.5Mb, and will vary with line conditions and distance. [6]2nd-Generation DVD-ROM Drives run at a higher maximum transfer rate of up to 2.76 MB/s compared to 1st-Generation DVD-ROM Drives which run at a maximum transfer rate of up to 1.348 MB/s. [5]The 5X DVD-ROM Drive transfer rate is up to 6,750 KB/s compared to 1,352 KB/s for 1X DVD-ROM Drives. [6]The 6X DVD-ROM Drive transfer rate is up to 8,115 KB/s. One year parts and labor. Labor for desktop systems is carry-in service with on-site service during the first 90 days of ownership. Labor for notebook systems is pick-up service. Compaq is not liable for editorial, pictorial, or typographical errors in this advertisement. Compaq, the Compaq Logo, and Presario are registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Intel and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. Microsoft, MS, and Windows are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. AMD-K6 is a registered trademark and 3DNow! is a trademark of Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. Product and company names mentioned herein may be trademarks and/or registered trademarks of other companies. **Call Compaq Monday-Friday 7:00am-11:00pm (CST), Saturday and Sunday 7:00am-7:00pm (CST).** ©1998 Compaq Computer Corporation. All rights reserved.

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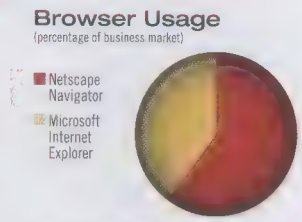
WEB BROWSERS & UTILITIES

For more information go to **www.pccomputing.com/getnow**

By Rich Schwerin

TRENDS **Browser Battle: Round Five** In this corner, from Redmond, Washington, with usability updates galore, Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.0. And in this corner, from Mountain View, California, boasting XML support, Netscape Communicator 5.0. But that's not all. You also have two new alternatives: an updated version of Opera Software's Opera and Sun's HotJava. Stay tuned.

Tug-of-war Back and forth Netscape and Microsoft go in the contest for Web browser dominance. According to the latest survey, Netscape gains some ground, with 60 percent of businesses choosing Navigator as their browser—up 6 percent from just three months earlier. The reason? Netscape took Microsoft's lead and is now offering its Communicator suite, which includes Navigator, for free.



EDITOR'S A-List PICKS

New WEB BROWSER

Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.0 When it comes to choosing a browser, put politics, religion, and rhetoric aside, and focus instead on usability. The hands-down winner? Internet Explorer 5.0, with better Favorites management, improved search features, and AutoComplete for just about everything. With a suite of extras including light versions of Outlook and FrontPage, plus NetMeeting and Media Player, Microsoft's browser is unsurpassed.

Free / Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400 / enter 739 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New WEB/INTERNET UTILITY

Infoseek Express If you still haven't found what you're looking for online, you haven't used Infoseek Express. This nifty freebie is a quick way to send your query to more than 300 search locations. The result? Fast, accurate hits come back in a convenient prioritized list. Best of all, Infoseek Express highlights your search term on every page.

Free / Infoseek / (800) 781-4636 / enter 740 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

SEARCH ENGINE

Lycos Network Wired Digital HotBot Stop wasting time and get with the program. Turn to HotBot first. It's speedy and accurate and includes the best parts of the Web. If you're looking for images, audio, video, or Java applets, you'll zero in on exactly what you need with its advanced search tools that let you tailor queries.

Free / Lycos Network / www.hotbot.com / enter 741 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

WEB PUBLISHER

Microsoft FrontPage 2000 Want to build Web pages as easily as Office documents? Get your hands on FrontPage 2000, a key part of the upcoming Microsoft Office 2000 (there's a stand-alone version available now). FrontPage 2000 supports all the Internet standards you expect and provides unbeatable hand-holding wizards, automatic templates, and excellent help. And for you purists, FrontPage 2000 puts out crystal-clean HTML code.

$149 est. street price / Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400 / enter 742 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New WEB DEVELOPMENT

RealNetworks Interactive Bundle When it comes to online streaming media, there's only one name you need to know—RealNetworks. Its Interactive Bundle has you covered: MediaPalette converts your existing media to the Real format, TAG makes your Real content interactive, and RealProducer Plus G2 is the ultimate tool for adding audio and video to your Web site.

$289 est. street price / RealNetworks / (800) 632-8920 / enter 743 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

WEB SERVER SOFTWARE

Microsoft Internet Information Server 4.0 It's NT 4.0's best-kept secret. Internet Information Server 4.0 gives you one-button setup, simple site management, a handy Index Server, and built-in support for Active Server Pages. It also offers SMTP and NNTP support, wizards, and certification server features. The best part? It's free with NT 4.0.

Free with Windows NT Server 4.0 / Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400 / enter 744 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New SITE MANAGEMENT

Marketwave Hit List Professional 4.0 Don't expect Web surfers to sign your guest book. Get accurate Web-site traffic analysis quickly and easily with Hit List Professional 4.0. Find out who's visiting your site, when, and where they're going (and maybe why they aren't coming back) with Hit List's ready-made reports. Hit List is also a great way to track advertising.

$295 est. street price / Marketwave / (800) 521-8176 / enter 745 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

TOP 5: BROWSER EXTRAS

Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator—whichever you use, it could always be better. Don't miss these five browser add-ins that help you get more out of the Web. Find them all and many more at www.pccomputing.com/getnow.

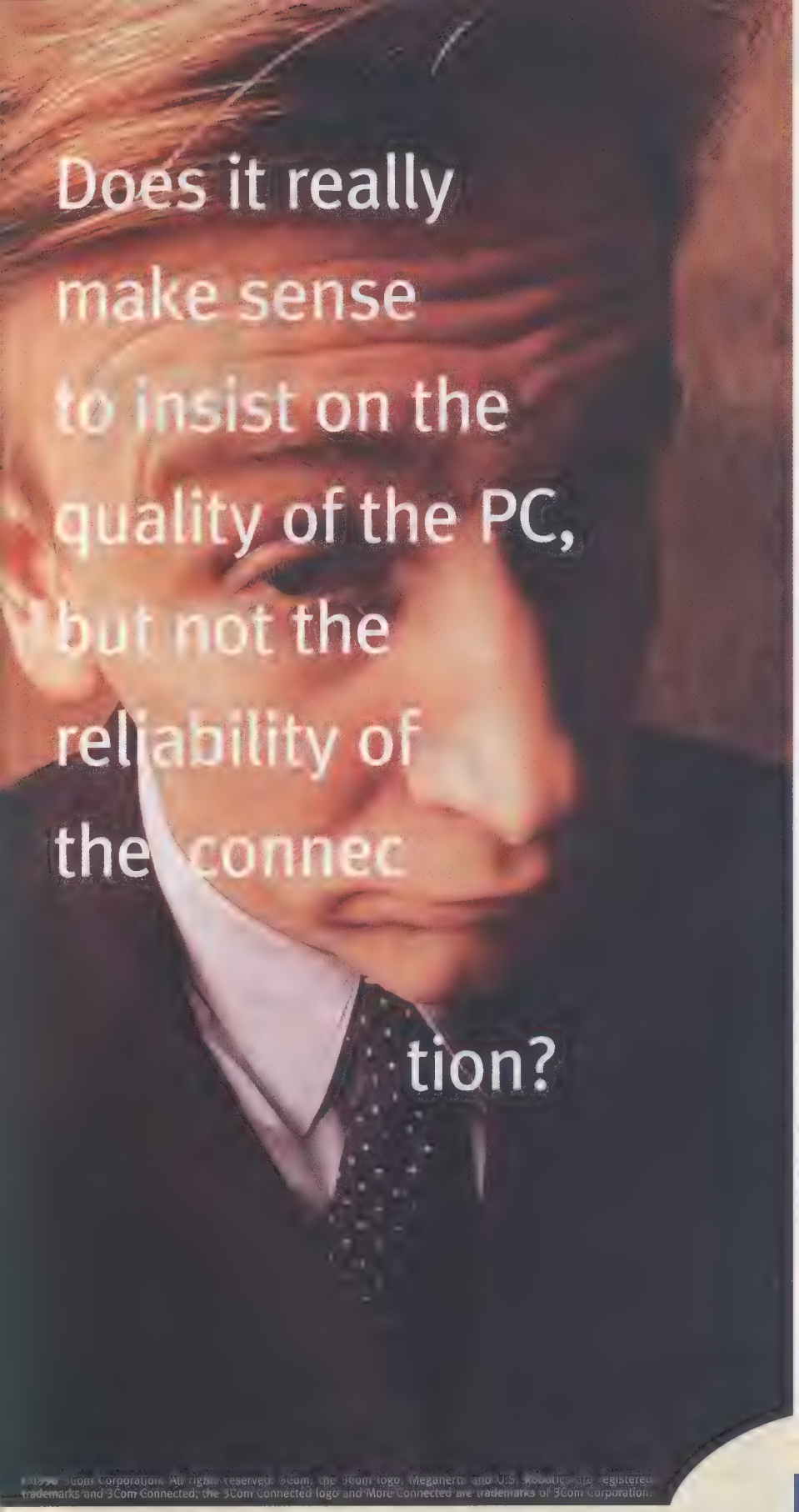
Adobe Acrobat Reader 3.02 The best—if not the only—way to view Acrobat PDF files.

Macromedia Shockwave & Flash Player Jazz up your otherwise dull daily browsing with this one-two multimedia-animation punch from Macromedia.

Mirabilis ICQ 98a Can we chat? Yes—if you grab a copy of this indispensable chat client.

RealNetworks RealPlayer Plus G2 Tune into streaming online audio and video, and turn your browser into a complete entertainment system.

ZDNet CookieMaster 2.0a Keep a close eye on those insidious site snoops.



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By Leslie Ayers

TRENDS **Seeing Double** What's the worst thing about buying clothes online? Public Technologies Multimedia knows: You can't try anything on. That's why it developed My Virtual Model, a 3-D mannequin you build in your own image. All you need is a Web browser to dress your cyberdouble and view it from all angles. Check out the Lands' End version at www.landsend.com.

EDITOR'S A-List PICKS

New FINANCIAL SERVICE

Intuit Quicken.com Stop winging it when it comes to important financial decisions, and let Quicken.com be your guide. In addition to investment, retirement, and insurance information, you can turn to its Life Events area for help sorting out the financial details of getting married, having a baby, and saving for college. And all the Quicken.com services are free.

Free / Intuit / www.quicken.com / enter 746 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New BANKING SERVICE

Intuit Quicken Deluxe 99 Seamless integration between your account information and the Internet make Quicken Deluxe 99 tops for online banking. It works with almost all the top banking services and makes the most of your Web connection by simultaneously uploading account bills as you download account info. And its PIN Vault lets you store your secret codes in a secure place.

$60 list price / Intuit / (800) 446-8848 / enter 748 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

COMMERCE SERVER

Microsoft Site Server 3.0 Commerce Edition NT shops, look no further. Microsoft Site Sever 3.0 Commerce Edition bundles all the tools you need to take your store global. Choose from FrontPage or Visual InterDev to design your site. A wizard guides you through store setup, while Ad Server handles banner advertising. If managing inventory is a top priority, add SQL Server.

$3,499 est. street price / Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400 / enter 749 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New COMMERCE SERVICE

Yahoo Store Tap into e-commerce gold without spending a fortune. Painless setup, flexible design options, and domain name and search engine registration make Yahoo Store worth every penny of its reasonable monthly fee. Not sure how to deal with credit card and other electronic payments? Yahoo Store handles these for you too.

$100 per month for up to 50 items, $300 per month for up to 1,000 items, est. street prices / Yahoo / (408) 616-3801 / enter 750 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New NATIONAL INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER

MindSpring Enterprises MindSpring With MindSpring, choosing an ISP is a decision you make only once. A wide range of V.90 dial-up or cable modem options and extras like more Web space make it a cinch to stay connected. The Spaminator helps keep your in-box junk-free too.

$14.95 per month for 20 hours, $19.95 per month for unlimited access, est. street prices / MindSpring Enterprises / (888) 677-7464 / enter 751 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Persuasive Prices Buying on the Net would be a lot more attractive if Web merchants offered better deals. Most of the survey respondents who visit online shopping sites but don't buy anything there said that lower prices, particularly Web exclusives, are the best way for e-merchants to persuade them to pull out the plastic.

New TRAVEL SERVICE

Biztravel.com With comprehensive, customizable travel preferences and business-friendly features, Biztravel.com is the best place for businesspeople to plan trips for work. Now it's great for planning leisure travel too. Check out vacation and cruise packages, plus exclusive deals. And seat upgrades have never been easier: Just click on Upgrades, and Biztravel.com does the rest.

Free / Biztravel.com / (800) 835-6483 / enter 752 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New SHOPPING SERVICE

Dell Direct Web Site Hard to believe there was a time when you couldn't buy a PC built to order over the Web. Dell was one of the first computer companies to make buying direct worthwhile—and it's still the best. Are you beefing up your small business's technology backbone? Check out Dell's Small Business Center. Dell Direct Web Site has great deals on refurbished systems too.

Free / Dell / www.dell.com / enter 753 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Intuit Quicken.com

E-COMMERCE: SELL IT ONLINE

The junk piled up in your garage is becoming a fire hazard. But who has time for a yard sale? You can turn your trash into cash on the Web instead. Start at these free—and almost free—sites. Link to them all at www.pccomputing.com/getnow.

Free Classifieds You don't have to spend money to make money. Lots of sites on the Web don't charge a cent to list your car, computer, closets full of vintage clothing—anything. Start with Yahoo Classifieds (classifieds.yahoo.com) and Classifieds2000 (www.classifieds2000.com).

Online Auctions Got something weird to sell? From the wild to the run-of-the-mill, it's for sale at eBay (www.ebay.com), our favorite auction site. Sellers' fees are reasonable, and buyers keep coming back for the super deals.

Free Web Store You don't have to be in business for yourself to set up your very own shop on the Web. With iCat Commerce Online, Tom's Trinkets and Antiques by Amanda can become a reality. And if your inventory is fewer than 10 items, your store is absolutely free. No software to download or hidden fees. Check out www.icat.com.

Zip! For a faster tax refund click send

IRS *e-file* is today's way to file your income tax—and get your refund back in half the usual time. Even faster with Direct Deposit!

If you prepare your tax return on your PC or Mac, take the next step and *file* it electronically too.

Click! IRS *e-file* is fast, simple, accurate and secure. And you can e-file 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Do you owe more tax? You can still e-file your return now, get fast proof of acceptance from the IRS, but then wait until April 15th to make the payment. One option allows you to authorize withdrawal from your bank account on the date you choose, up to April 15th. Another option allows you to pay with your credit card.

Any questions? Check the IRS Web site at **www.irs.ustreas.gov** or your tax preparation software.

IRS *e-file*. It's the fastest way to get a tax refund.

IRS e-file

CLICK. ZIP.
FAST ROUND TRIP.

The Internal Revenue Service Working to put service first

For more information, go to **www.pccomputing.com/getnow**

By Gordon Bass

TRENDS **Less Is More** Look, you've got too much stuff. You're out of desk space, and your briefcase is as crammed as a Hong Kong tenement. Solution? Convergence. Choose a do-it-all device that simplifies your life, from multifunction devices (MFDs) that replace a desk full of equipment to multipurpose handhelds that let you leave your notebook at home.

EDITOR'S A-List PICKS

New DIGITAL COPIER

Xerox XD100 Step up to the clarity—and versatility—of digital copying. The XD100 bests your cranky old copier with 10 crisp pages per minute. Hook it up to your PC or network, and use it as a 600-dpi printer too. Its small size and price tag make sense for tight spaces and tight budgets.

$700 est. street price / Xerox / (800) 832-6979 / enter 754 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New MULTIFUNCTION FAX/COPIER/PRINTER

Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 3100 No room for a printer, copier, fax machine, and scanner? No problem. Our favorite MFD handles all their chores with finesse and gives you HP's legendary razor-sharp printer output. Better yet, its excellent JetSuite software gives you one-click access to all the LaserJet 3100's functions.

$699 est. street price / Hewlett-Packard / (800) 752-0900

New DIGITAL FAX

Panasonic Panafax UF-770i Send your faxes over the Net and slash those long-distance bills—the Panafax UF-770i seamlessly converts faxes to e-mail attachments. Feeling nostalgic? You can also fax directly over a phone line. And if you're short on space, the Panafax UF-770i works as a networked printer and scanner too.

$3,695 est. street price / Panasonic / (800) 742-8086 / enter 755 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

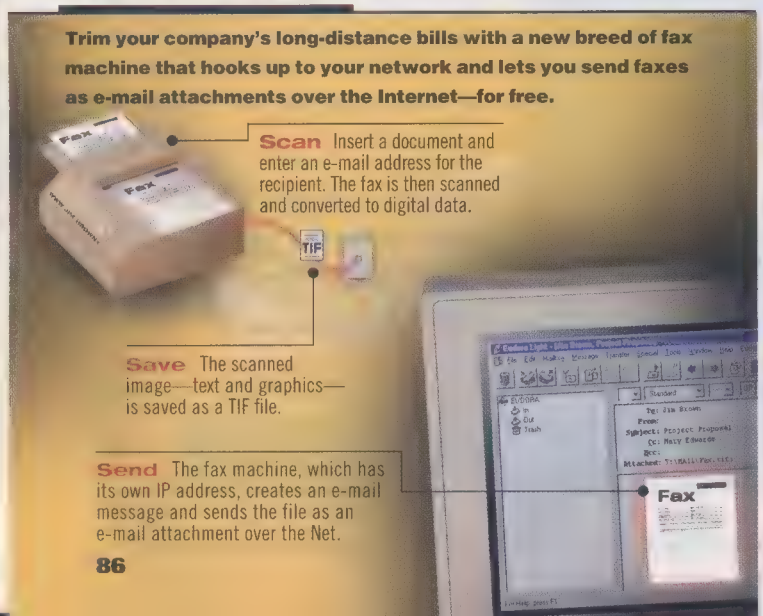
New SMALL-BUSINESS NETWORK

Tut Systems HomeRun Forget about running a tangle of wires through your offices. Build an instant network with HomeRun instead. Just plug your PCs into your existing phone lines for up to 1Mbps throughput—and you can talk on the phone at the same time. Look for HomeRun-based networking kits from 3Com, Compaq, Intel, AT&T Wireless, Lucent, Motorola, and other companies soon.

$199 for HR1000 PCI NIC, $249 for HR1000T, est. street prices / Tut Systems / (800) 998-4888 / enter 756 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

HOW IT WORKS: INTERNET FAXING

Trim your company's long-distance bills with a new breed of fax machine that hooks up to your network and lets you send faxes as e-mail attachments over the Internet—for free.



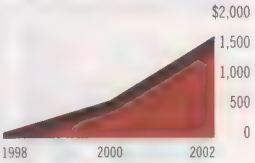
Scan Insert a document and enter an e-mail address for the recipient. The fax is then scanned and converted to digital data.

Save The scanned image—text and graphics—is saved as a TIF file.

Send The fax machine, which has its own IP address, creates an e-mail message and sends the file as an e-mail attachment over the Net.

Plug and Go Small businesses are flocking to the Internet, but few are buying their own Internet servers. Why? The servers are just too complicated. A simpler solution is a *thin* server, a plug-and-play hardware device preloaded with all the software you need. Thin Internet servers are also gaining popularity in the corporate world, where they're less expensive to manage than full-fledged Web servers.

Thin Web Server Sales
(in millions of dollars)



SOURCE: DATAQUEST

New TELEPHONY

Centrepoint Technologies Concero Switchboard Yes, you can afford a PBX for your small business. And it's simple to set up: Plug the Concero Switchboard into your phone jack, then plug your phone, fax machine, and PC into Concero. That's it. You'll sound like a million bucks with professional features such as on-hold music, call forwarding, and conference calling.

$495 est. street price / Centrepoint Technologies / (888) 332-9322 / enter 757 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM

TravRoute Door-to-Door Copilot Never get lost again. The Door-to-Door Copilot in-car navigation system plugs into your notebook PC to pinpoint your location and provide directions to any address in the country. Wrong turn? Copilot updates its directions to counteract your goof. With the system's two-way voice-activated technology, your hands never leave the wheel.

$199 est. street price / TravRoute / (888) 872-8768 / enter 758 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New PAGER

Glenayre AccessLink II It's no bigger than the ubiquitous pagers sported by doctors and club kids, but this 4.2-ounce wonder does more than alert to you important calls. The AccessLink II lets you send and receive e-mail using a virtual keyboard, import and export addresses via an infrared port, and organize everything easily with a folder-based interface.

$195 est. street price / Glenayre / (800) 643-0323 / enter 759 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New MOBILE OFFICE

Olympus D1000 Digital Voice Recorder with ViaVoice Don't trust your billion-dollar brainstorm to a soggy napkin. Pop a 4MB flash card into the pocket-size D1000 Digital Voice Recorder and save over an hour's worth of world-transforming ideas. Then, back at the office, you can turn your musings into editable text with the included IBM ViaVoice voice-recognition software.

$299 est. street price / Olympus / (800) 622-6372 / enter 760 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

New CELL PHONE

Qualcomm Q Phone Ditch your pocketful of communications devices. The palm-size Q Phone does it all, pulling double duty as a vibrating alphanumeric pager and a CDMA cell phone with voice mail. It even supports Internet-based services, putting stock quotes, airline schedules, and e-mail in the palm of your hand.

$499 est. street price / Qualcomm / (800) 349-4188 / enter 761 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink

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VOL. MP SEC. 05
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2. Micron University offers two ways to learn: either with others in online, instructor-led classes, or on your own, at your own pace, with our self-study tutorials. Both offer comprehensive and flexible ways to become a more powerful PC user and better apply technology to your life.

THE FIRST 450MHz DESKTOP WITH A POST-GRADUATE DEGREE.

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Pay Less

Get More

Get Ahead

The Critics Rave

PC WORLD BEST BUY
Millennia MAX 400
#1 Power Desktop
Dec '98

PC WORLD BEST BUY
Millennia MAX 400
#1 Gaming System
Dec '98

PC WORLD BEST BUY
Millennia MAX 450
Best Buy
Nov '98

PC WORLD BEST BUY
Millennia 400 DVD
Sept '98
Oct '98

PC WORLD BEST BUY
Millennia 350
Sept '98
Oct '98

MILLENNIA® MAX

BREAKTHROUGH PRICE!
COMPLETE INTERNET-READY™
450MHz DESKTOP SYSTEM

$1,999

- Intel® Pentium® II processor 450MHz
- 128MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 10GB Ultra ATA hard drive◆
- 17" Micron display (15.9" display)
- 6X DVD-ROM drive
- 56K 3Com USR modem**
- Diamond Viper 550 TnT 16MB AGP
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition
- #1 Ranked *PC World* Power Desktop
- 1-year free[§] tuition to Micron University

MICRON U

Micron™ Millennia® – The Ultimate Desktop.

Just ranked the #1 450MHz desktop by the editors of *CNET* and the #1 Power Desktop by the editors of *PC World* Magazine (Millennia 400 DVD • Oct '98, Millennia MAX 450 • Nov '98, Millennia MAX 400 • Dec '98), Micron's Millennia desktop product line continues a long tradition of industry-leading, award-winning performance. Perhaps that's why some of the most prominent power users around rely on Micron. But Micron offers far more than outstanding systems. We provide the new tools necessary to win in today's demanding new economy, the latest of which is called Micron University and it's absolutely free[§] with the purchase of any new Micron system.

Exclusive – Micron University – The Ultimate Learning Tool.

In our continuing effort to build not only powerful systems, but powerful users, we are proud to introduce Micron University. Offering hundreds of free[§] online, instructor-led classes, seminars and self-paced tutorials on the hottest topics in computing and business today, Micron University will turn any Micron owner into a highly educated power user. When you combine this powerful new tool with Micron's revolutionary MPower℠ purchase program, offering qualified users no interest[##] or payments for six months and our PowerXchange trade-in options, you get more than a great machine at a great price, you get a deal you probably won't find anywhere else. Call today to order your system or visit our Web site to find out more about Micron University.

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##Individuals can qualify for the 6-month same-as-cash program. If purchase advance and related charges are not paid in full within 180 days from the purchase date, finance charges will be assessed from purchase date. The APR varies and is 16.90% as of 11/25/98 with a minimum finance charge of $1.00. Micron Leasing arranged by an independent entity to qualified commercial customers. Above lease payments based on 36 month, FMV terms and do not include taxes, fees or shipping charges. Leasing subject to credit approval and availability. Above lease terms subject to change without notice or obligation.
A non-refundable up-front freight charge applies for participation in PowerXchange to cover cost of return packaging and processing.
Contract with outside Internet Service Provider required and is not included. Internet service questions must be resolved by ISP.

INSTRUCTOR-LED CLASSES.

3. Learning takes place in a virtual classroom, which utilizes a powerful, yet simple-to-use, threaded message board. Each class is led by industry experts and professional trainers so you know you're being taught by the best. You'll get personalized attention and do it all from the keyboard of your computer — no matter where you are!

SELF-STUDY TUTORIALS.

4. Learn on your own by following comprehensive tutorials, involving a series of learning exercises. After you master the skills and concepts of each tutorial, you can move on to the next lesson or choose a new topic. You can take tutorials to become a power user on the most popular software applications on the market including Microsoft Office and Windows NT.

New Rules. New Tools.™

Rock-Solid Reliability. Micron University. MPower℠ and PowerXchange℠ Programs. Industry-Leading Service and Support.

There's a lot more to owning a system than having a computer sitting on your desk. You'll always want the latest technology, great pricing and service and support you can count on — and that's exactly what Micron's new MPower program is all about. Call today for details or visit www.micronpc.com/pccom.

intel inside pentium® II PROCESSOR

Award-Winning Complete Internet-Ready™ 450MHz Systems Starting at Just $1,599

Model Name	Millennia HE 350	Millennia 450	Millennia MAX 450	Millennia MAX 450	New! Millennia MAX 450
Processor	Intel Pentium® II processor 350MHz	Intel Pentium® II processor 450MHz	Intel Pentium II processor 450MHz	Intel Pentium II processor 450MHz	Intel Pentium II processor 450MHz
Cache	512KB internal L2 cache	512KB internal L2 cache	512KB internal L2 cache	512KB internal L2 cache	512KB internal L2 cache
RAM	64MB 100MHz SDRAM	64MB 100MHz SDRAM	128MB 100MHz SDRAM	128MB 100MHz SDRAM	128MB 100MHz SDRAM
Hard Drive	8.4GB Ultra ATA hard drive*	8.4GB Ultra ATA hard drive*	10GB Ultra ATA hard drive*	13.5GB Ultra ATA hard drive*	13.5GB 7200RPM Ultra ATA hard drive*
Monitor	17" Micron 700Vx monitor (15.9" display)	17" Micron 700Vx monitor (15.9" display)	17" Micron 700Vx monitor (15.9" display)	19" Micron 900Lx monitor (18" display)	15" Micron LCD display flat panel
DVD/CD-ROM	32X max speed CD-ROM drive	32X max speed CD-ROM drive	6X DVD-ROM drive (free upgrade from 4.8X DVD-ROM drive)	6X DVD-ROM drive (free upgrade from 4.8X DVD-ROM drive)	6X DVD-ROM drive (free upgrade from 4.8X DVD-ROM drive)
Modem	3Com U.S. Robotics 56K WinModem**	3Com U.S. Robotics 56K WinModem**	3Com U.S. Robotics 56K WinModem**	3Com U.S. Robotics 56K WinModem**	3Com U.S. Robotics 56K WinModem**
Graphics	nVidia Riva 128, 8MB SGRAM 3D AGP graphics	nVidia Riva 128, 8MB SGRAM 3D 2X AGP graphics	16MB Diamond Viper 550 TnT 2X AGP graphics	16MB Diamond Viper 550 TnT 2X AGP graphics	16MB Diamond Viper 550 TnT 2X AGP graphics
Sound System	PCI 64-voice Wavetable sound	PCI 64-voice Wavetable sound	PCI 128-voice Wavetable sound	PCI 128-voice Wavetable sound	PCI 128-voice Wavetable sound
Speakers	Advent AV009 stereo speakers	Advent AV009 stereo speakers	Advent AV009 stereo speakers	Monsoon MM1000 3-piece flat panel speaker system	Monsoon MM1000 3-piece flat panel speaker system
Warranty	5-year/3-year Micron Power™ limited warranty	5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty	5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty	5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty	5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty
Scholarship	1-year free† tuition to Micron U online	1-year free† tuition to Micron U online	1-year free† tuition to Micron U online	1-year free† tuition to Micron U online	1-year free† tuition to Micron U online
Software Included	Microsoft® Windows® 98 Microsoft Home Essentials Microsoft Power Pak Norton AntiVirus	Microsoft Windows 98 Microsoft Home Essentials Microsoft Power Pak Norton AntiVirus	Microsoft Windows 98 Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition Norton AntiVirus	Microsoft Windows 98 Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition Norton AntiVirus	Microsoft Windows 98 Microsoft Office 97 Small Business Edition Norton AntiVirus
Also Includes:	New MicroTower™ case 104-key enhanced keyboard Microsoft IntelliMouse® 3.5" floppy drive	New MicroTower case 104-key enhanced keyboard Microsoft IntelliMouse 3.5" floppy drive	New MicroTower case Multifunction keyboard Microsoft IntelliMouse 3.5" floppy drive	100MB Iomega Zip drive Micron MiniTower case Multifunction keyboard Microsoft IntelliMouse 3.5" floppy drive	100MB Iomega Zip drive Micron MiniTower case Multifunction keyboard Microsoft IntelliMouse 3.5" floppy drive
Price	$1,399 $49/mo. Business Lease 36 mos.††	$1,599 $56/mo. Business Lease 36 mos.††	$1,999 $70/mo. Business Lease 36 mos.††	$2,499 $87/mo. Business Lease 36 mos.††	$2,999 $105/mo. Business Lease 36 mos.††
Order Code:	50008	50003	40010	40009	40011
Upgrade to:	Upgrade to: 4.8X DVD-ROM drive 128MB SDRAM 13.5GB Ultra ATA hard drive Advent subwoofer	Upgrade to: 4.8X DVD-ROM drive 128MB SDRAM 13.5GB Ultra ATA hard drive Advent subwoofer	Upgrade to: 100MB Iomega Zip drive 14.4GB 7200RPM Ultra ATA hard drive	Upgrade to: 348MB SDRAM 14.4GB 7200RPM Ultra ATA hard drive 21" Hitachi monitor (19.8" display)	Upgrade to: 256MB 100MHz SDRAM 14.4GB 7200RPM Ultra ATA hard drive
Price	$1,757 $63/mo. Business Lease 36 mos.††	$1,957 $70/mo. Business Lease 36 mos.††	$2,267 $80/mo. Business Lease 36 mos.††	$3,549 $115/mo. Business Lease 36 mos.††	$3,429 $120/mo. Business Lease 36 mos.††
Order Code:	50014	50005	40015	40012	40016

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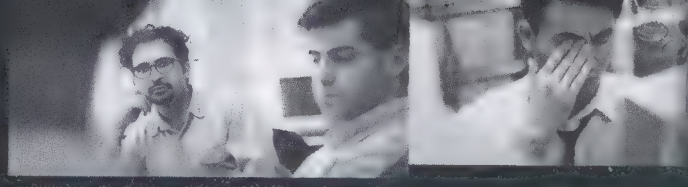

VOL. C/N SEC. 05
99.2

PUT THE POWER OF WINDOWS NT TECHNOLOGY TO WORK FOR YOU.

OPTIMIZED FOR WINDOWS NT

1. As the first direct PC manufacturer to ship Windows NT back in '94, Micron's knowledge and experience can help you maximize your Windows NT network, now and into the future.

HIGH-PERFORMANCE, RELIABLE NETWORKING

2. The Micron ClientPro desktop and NetFRAME server utilize industry-standard technology and are powered by Intel's latest chip set technology, including the Intel Pentium II and Pentium II Xeon™ processors.

MICRON MAKES IT EASY TO HARNESS THE POWER OF MICROSOFT WINDOWS 2000

CRITICS RAVE ABOUT THE MICRON CLIENTPRO

As the industry looks ahead to Microsoft Windows 2000 (built on NT technology), Micron offers a way to get ahead of the game today. Whether you're looking to upgrade to Windows NT® 4.0 or preparing for a company-wide shift to Windows 2000, our ClientPro® managed PCs and Micron™ NetFRAME® servers will be among the first to support the full potential of Microsoft Windows 2000. Network-ready right out of the box, built on industry standards, and packing the power of the Intel® Pentium® II processor 450MHz, the ClientPro puts more manageable power in your office. And if you're looking for a reliable and expandable server, it would be tough to beat Micron's NetFRAME servers running with the powerful new Intel Pentium II Xeon™ processor. Nothing maximizes a network today and tomorrow like Windows NT technology – and no one delivers it better than Micron. And as the first PC company to ship Microsoft Windows NT in 1994, it's no surprise that Micron's **AdvanceDeploy** program gives Micron users early access to Windows 2000.

"MICRON'S NETFRAME 3100 GIVES YOUR WEB CUSTOMERS WHAT THEY WANT BEFORE THEY CLICK AWAY."
— *PC Computing*, A-List Best Web Server, Nov. '98

"MICRON'S DUAL-PROCESSOR... SERVER RUNS FULL SPEED AHEAD."
— *PC Computing*, A-List Editors' Choice

So when you're ready to put the power of the ultimate business operating system into your office network, look to the experience and affordability of Micron ClientPro managed PCs and Micron NetFRAME servers. Call today for more information or to order direct from the factory or visit www.micronpc.com/pccom.

Micron NetFRAME 6200

Micron University – The Ultimate Learning Tool

In our continuing effort to build not only powerful systems, but powerful users, we are proud to introduce Micron University. Offering over one hundred free[§] online classes, seminars and self-paced tutorials on the hottest topics in computing and business today, Micron University will turn any Micron owner into a highly educated power-user. When you combine this powerful new tool with Micron's revolutionary MPower[SM] purchase program, offering qualified users no interest,[‡‡‡] no payments for six months and our PowerXchange trade-in options, you get more than a great machine at a great price, you get a deal you probably won't find anywhere else. Call today to order your system and to find out more about Micron University.

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***Micron Leasing arranged by an independent entity to qualified commercial customers. Above lease payments based on 36 month, FMV terms and do not include taxes, fees or shipping charges. Leasing subject to credit approval and availability. Above lease terms subject to change without notice or obligation.

PLANNED TECHNOLOGY MIGRATION

3. To simplify technology planning and implementation, Micron designs all ClientPro and NetFRAME systems to have long model lifecycles, consistent components and planned technology transitions including the upcoming industry shift to Microsoft Windows 2000.

HIGHLY MANAGED

4. Based on the Wired for Management specification and Desktop Management Interface compliant, ClientPro can be managed from a single point on the network. And every ClientPro desktop and NetFRAME server is backed by Micron's unmatched service and support programs.

New Rules. New Tools.™

intel inside pentium® II PROCESSOR

ClientPro CS 450

The Highest Performing Managed PC†

Intel® Pentium® II processor 450MHz
512KB internal L2 cache
128MB 100MHz SDRAM
8.4GB Ultra ATA hard drive◆
17" Micron 700Vx (15.9" display)
32X max speed CD-ROM drive
8MB Real 3D Starfighter AGP graphics
64-voice PCI Wavetable sound
3Com 3C905 WOL 10/100 network card
5-year/3-year Micron Power™ limited warranty
1-year free§ tuition to Micron U online

Intel LANDesk® Client Manager
Microsoft® Windows NT® Workstation 4.0
Norton AntiVirus

SMART II hard drive monitoring
Chassis intrusion detection
Fan, temperature, and voltage problem reporting
Virus detection reporting
Remote Wake Up capability
MiniTower case
3.5" floppy drive
104-key enhanced keyboard
Microsoft IntelliMouse®

$2,049 $72/mo. Business Lease. 36 mos.◊◊

NetFRAME 3101

The Perfect Small Business Server

Intel Pentium II processor 400MHz
512KB internal L2 ECC cache
128MB ECC 100MHz SDRAM
4GB Ultra ATA hard drive◆
32X max speed CD-ROM drive

5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty
Dedicated server technical support, 7x24
1-year next-business-day on-site service†††

1-year free§ tuition to Micron U online

Intel LANDesk Server Manager
Emergency Management Port Console

Supports up to two Intel Pentium II processors
100MHz frontside bus and up to 1GB memory support
Integrated Ultra Wide SCSI-3 dual channel controller
Intel PRO/100+ Server Adapter
Integrated RAID upgrade support
5 expansion slots: 3 PCI, 1 ISA, 1 shared PCI/ISA
8 drive bays: 1 external 3.5", 2 external 5.25"
5 hot-swap redundant 1.0" hard drive bays

$2,499 $87/mo. Business Lease. 36 mos.◊◊

NetFRAME 6200

High-Powered Server For Fast-Growing Businesses

Intel Pentium II Xeon™ processor 450MHz
512KB integrated L2 ECC cache
128MB ECC EDO DRAM
9GB U2W LVDS SCA 1" hard drive◆
32X SCSI CD-ROM drive

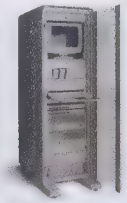
5-year/3-year Micron Power limited warranty
Dedicated server technical support, 7x24
1-year next-business-day on-site service†††
NOS support (3 first-year incident resolutions)

1-year free§ tuition to Micron U online

Intel LANDesk Server Manager 6.0
Emergency Management Port Console
Microsoft Windows NT Server 4.0 (10-user license)

Supports up to four Intel Pentium II processors
Options for 512KB, 1MB or 2MB L2 cache Xeon processors
4GB ECC EDO support (16 DIMM sockets)
Integrated Ultra-2 Wide LVDS dual channel & Ultra/narrow SCSI controller
7 expansion slots: 6 PCI, 1 shared ISA/PCI
6 internal, hot-swappable hard drives bays
1 hot-swappable 400-watt power supply (upgradable to 3 w/redundancy)
3 external 5.25" media bays and floppy drive
Free-standing pedestal chassis standard (7u rack mount option available)

$6,999 $226/mo. Business Lease. 36 mos.◊◊



NetFRAME 9200

The Mission-Critical Enterprise Server

Intel Pentium II Xeon processor 450MHz
512KB internal L2 ECC cache
256MB ECC EDO DRAM
2 dedicated 4GB U2W LVDS redundant hot-swappable boot drives
32X max speed CD-ROM drive

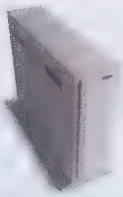
5-year / 3-year Micron Power limited warranty
Dedicated server technical support, 7x24
1-year next-business-day on-site service†††
NOS support (first-year 3 incident resolutions)

1-year free§ tuition to Micron U online

Intel LANDesk Server Manager 6.0
Emergency Management Port Console
Microsoft NT Server 4.0 (10-user license)

Supports up to four Intel Pentium II processors
Options for 512KB, 1MB or 2MB L2 cache Xeon processors
8GB ECC EDO support (32 DIMM sockets)
Intel PRO/100+ Server Adapter w/Adaptive Load Balancing and Adatper Fault Tolerance software
Integrated Ultra-2 Wide LVDS dual channel controller
10 expansion slots: 4 hot-plug ready 64-bit PCI slots, Five 32-bit PCI & 1 PCI/ISA slot shared
2 hot-swappable 750-watt 220-volt power supplies (upgradable to 3 w/redundancy)
7u rack mount chassis (cabinet sold seperately)

$14,199 $455/mo. Business Lease. 36 mos.◊◊



DataFRAME 450

The Highly Scalable Mass Storage System

Dual/Split SCSI bus disk sub-system w/8 drive bay capacity
1+1 (2 total) redundant hot-swappable power supplies (300 watts each)
9GB U2W LVDS SCA-2 hot swappable hard drive◆
3u height rack mount chassis w/rails
3-year Micron Power limited warranty
Dedicated server technical support, 7x24
1-year next-business-day on-site service†††

1-year free§ tuition to Micron U online

Web Storage Manager (enviromental monitoring system)
Supports up to 8 SCA-2 hot swappable hard drives
Supports 1" or 1.6" hard drives heights
Maximum storage capacity: 144GB per enclosure
Ultra-2 Wide 80MBps transfer rate
Low Voltage Differential SCSI interface (12 meter cable length)
Optional deskside/pedestal version available

$2,899 $101/mo. Business Lease. 36 mos.◊◊

THERE'S NO BETTER TIME TO TRANSITION TO WINDOWS NT® TECHNOLOGY.

Micron systems, equipped with the easy to operate Microsoft Windows NT Workstation 4.0 operating system, allow your business to achieve immediate improvements in productivity. The power of a Micron system running Microsoft Windows NT offer the greatest return on investment and ensures that you own the best upgrade path to future technology such as Microsoft Windows 2000.

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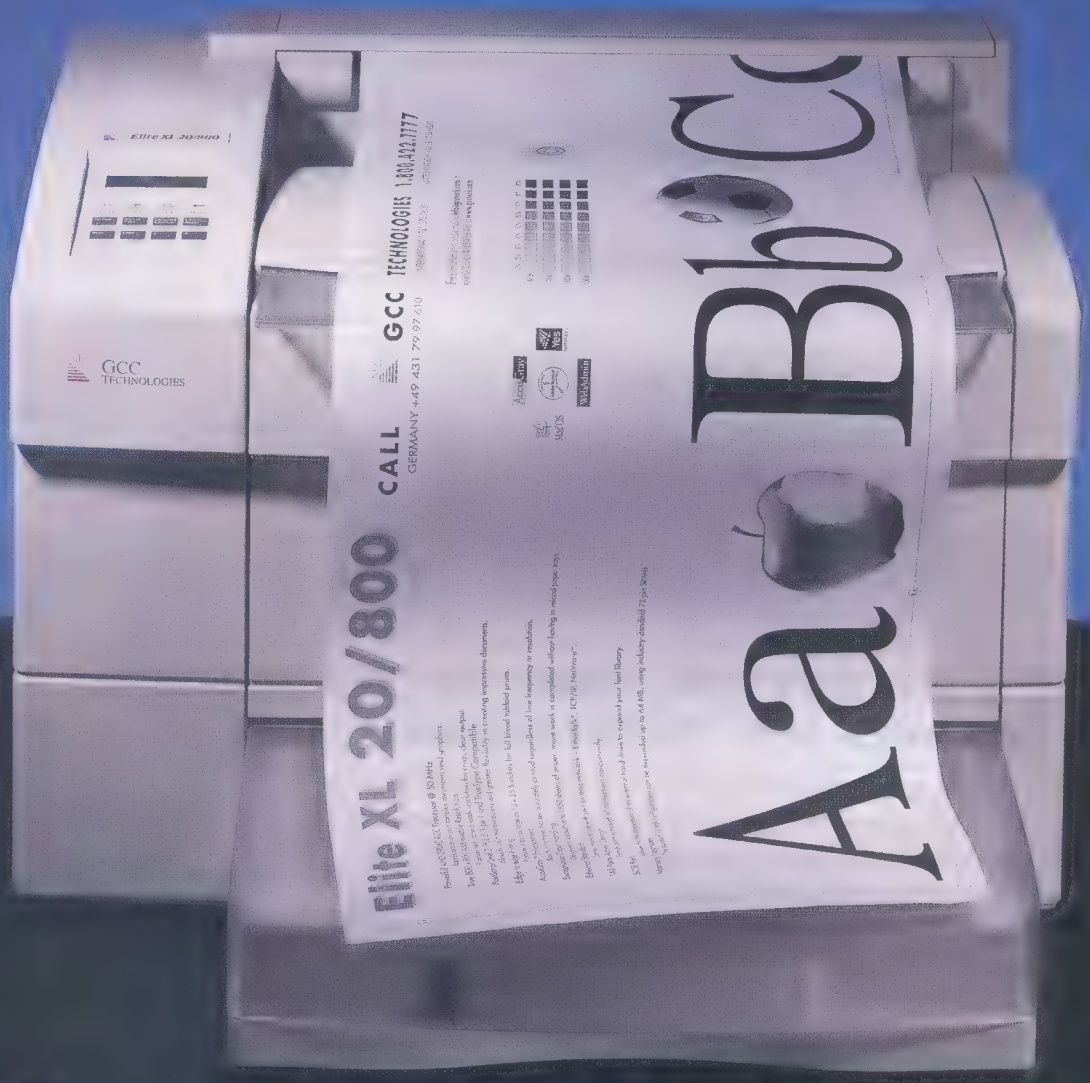


GCC TECHNOLOGIES

HERE'S WHY...

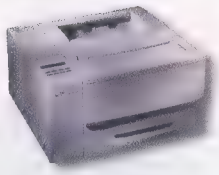
We're GCC Technologies, and our printers are sold direct against some of the most famous names in the computer industry. This creates a buying opportunity for those who understand a basic principle of free enterprise: Selling direct is better for the manufacturer and buying direct is better for the customer.

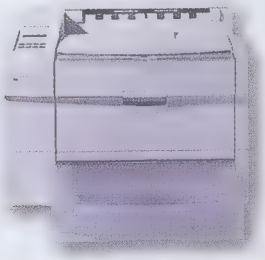
Therefore, we sell our printers direct, eliminating many prosperous middlemen, and lowering your costs.

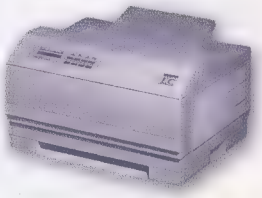
We also provide direct technical support, eliminating other middlemen who can't solve your problems. And we are compassionate hand-holders. We offer unlimited free technical support, not just on business days, but on Saturdays too – throughout the one-year warranty period. If during that period you have a problem that our technical support people can't solve, our Platinum Exchange program guarantees you a replacement printer by the next business day.

We invite you to buy your next printer direct from GCC and join our growing family of satisfied customers. All GCC printers come with an unconditional thirty-day money-back guarantee.

For complete details, call the 800 number below. And, for the record, yes, our printers have wonderful technology too. It's just that you don't have to pay extra for it.







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12 pages per minute
Maximum Print Area: 8.5" x 14"
Letter/A4, legal, envelope
250-sheet Universal Tray
PostScript® Level 2 compatible, PCL 5
35 PostScript fonts, 15 PCL fonts,
45 downloadable fonts
RAM expandable to 64 MB
1st year Platinum Exchange Warranty
EtherTalk®, LocalTalk®, TCP/IP
Ethernet (10 BaseT), Bi-directional Parallel
2nd Paper Feeder*
(Includes 500-sheet Universal Tray) Add $ 299

ELITE 12/600 $999

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8 MB RAM expandable to 64 MB
2nd year Platinum Exchange Add $ 99
Business Lease $50 Month/24 months**

ELITE 1212 $1199

1200 x 1200 dpi resolution
16 MB RAM expandable to 64 MB
2nd year Platinum Exchange Add $119
Business Lease $59 Month/24 months**

ELITE XL 20 Series

20 pages per minute
Maximum Print Area: 12.75" x 35.25"
Letter/A4, tabloid/A3, legal, envelope, poster
500-sheet Universal Tray
PostScript® Level 2 compatible, PCL 5
35 PostScript fonts, 15 PCL fonts,
250 downloadable fonts
RAM expandable to 64 MB
1st year Platinum Exchange Warranty
EtherTalk®, LocalTalk®, NetWare™, TCP/IP
Ethernet (10 BaseT, AAUI), Bi-directional Parallel
2nd or 3rd Paper Feeder*
(Includes 500-sheet Universal Tray) Add $ 299

ELITE XL 20/600 $1799

600 x 600 dpi resolution
16 MB RAM expandable to 64 MB
2nd year Platinum Exchange Add $179
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800 x 800 dpi resolution
24 MB RAM expandable to 64 MB
2nd year Platinum Exchange Add $199
Business Lease $69 Month/36 months**

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1200 x 1200 dpi resolution
64 MB RAM installed
2nd year Platinum Exchange Add $219
Business Lease $76 Month/36 months**

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8 pages per minute
Maximum Print Area: 11" x 17"
Letter/A4, tabloid/A3, legal, envelope
250-sheet Universal Tray
PostScript® Level 2 compatible, PCL 5
35 PostScript fonts, 15 PCL fonts,
45 downloadable fonts
RAM expandable to 64 MB
1st year Platinum Exchange Warranty
EtherTalk®, LocalTalk®, TCP/IP
Ethernet (10 BaseT,10 Base2), Parallel
2nd Paper Feeder*
(Includes 250-sheet Universal Tray) Add $ 319
(Includes 500-sheet Letter/A4 Tray) Add $ 419

ELITE XL 608 LC $1399

600 x 600 dpi resolution
8 MB RAM expandable to 64 MB
2nd year Platinum Exchange Add $139
Business Lease $50 Month/36 months**

*The Elite 12/600, Elite 1212, and the Elite XL 608 LC support one additional paper feeder. The Elite XL 20/600, Elite XL 20/800, and the Elite XL 20/1200 support two additional trays. **Leasing provided by independant leasing companies to qualified customers. Lease payments based on 24-month and 36-month terms. Lease terms subject to change without notice or obligation.

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Perfect Five-Star Rating
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	CRT Monitor Model/ Viewable Area	TCO	Dot Pitch/ CRT Type	Max. Horizontal Scan Rate	Max. Resolution	Est. Street Price
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	VisionMaster Pro 501 (19.5" VIS)	TCO '95	0.28mm/AG	96khz	1600 x 1200@75hz	$939
	VisionMaster 502 (19.5" VIS)	TCO '95	0.27mm/dp	110khz	1800 x 1440@74hz	$999
	VisionMaster 501 (19.5" VIS)	TCO '95	0.27mm/dp	96khz	1600 x 1200@75hz	$939
19"	**VisionMaster Pro 450** (18.0" VIS)	TCO '95	0.25mm/AG	102khz	1600 x 1200@80hz	$699
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Hungry?

Here's a mantra for the next few years: The Internet changes everything. Everything. Not to alarm anyone, but you just might want to bookmark ammo_online.com before things get really nasty. Of course, most of what the Internet will do is terrific. It will let us create our own little worlds. Want a newspaper without boring articles about Croatia or Biloxi? Want to educate yourself without sitting in a stuffy classroom? Want to find incredible bargains from overseas? Want to pay bills and send messages without using banks or the post office? Easy.

Clang But hold on a second. Those overseas bargains are often possible because the stuff is made by 8-year-olds chained to heavy machinery and sweating for a few measly stotinkas a day. How many high-paid American factory workers grinding out the same products will lose their jobs as a result?

Or consider this: Long-distance learning is an amazing breakthrough. Great teachers often attract more students than can fit in a lecture hall, so the overflow watches on screens. These screens can just as easily be in your living room. Soon you'll be able to sign up for a Shakespeare class from Oxford, math from Pasadena, and Chinese language instruction from Beijing. So what will happen to the hordes of mediocre teachers at your local school? Well, there's always lots of yard work.

Ditto with bank tellers, catalog order takers, mailmen, and many other occupations that are vital today but online tomorrow. Already more messages are sent via e-mail than through the post office.

The Web can save trees used to print newspapers. But once newspapers go totally electronic you'll select the topics you'd like to read (and eliminate the ones you don't). Everybody wants local news and weather. Many want national stories. Will anyone check off the box next to news about Bosnia or Bangladesh? Hardly. When awful things happen in those distant places nobody will know or care.

The Internet will wrench our society far more than the Industrial Revolution did. It is the ultimate expression of cultural Darwinism. If you have a PC, you're literate, and you speak English, you'll be fine. If you don't, well, lotsa luck.

It gets worse. Look at what happened to Furbies, this year's annoying hot toy. If you wanted one for Christmas, you had to drive from one toy store to another or pay through the nose. But eBay, the world's largest auction site, soon became a Furby clearinghouse. Buyers set the price (around $70). After Christmas the values dipped. This is how the market is supposed to work, and the Internet greases the skids.

Nobody likes shopping for cars. We're all afraid some sales scum will take advantage of us. But when the Internet pushes cars, the market will establish prices, not some showroom slimebag. G.M. wants to sell $20 billion of cars online in 2002. I'm there.

Blech Another ripoff that the Net will fix: airline seat prices. Heartless airline executives (but I repeat myself) gouge us all, and we end up paying wildly different prices for the same crummy seats. The public should bid on these, paying more for bulkhead windows and far less for five-across middles surrounded by puking babies.

In fact, the Internet will eventually auction just about everything. Let the free market determine what we pay. But what happens when gas or electricity or heat or even food go to the highest bidders with the fastest Web connections? Well, at least we'll get ours. Hey, it's tough all over.

E-mail somerson@zd.com

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID PERRY

Those **bargains** are possible because the stuff is made by **8-year-olds** chained to **heavy machinery.**

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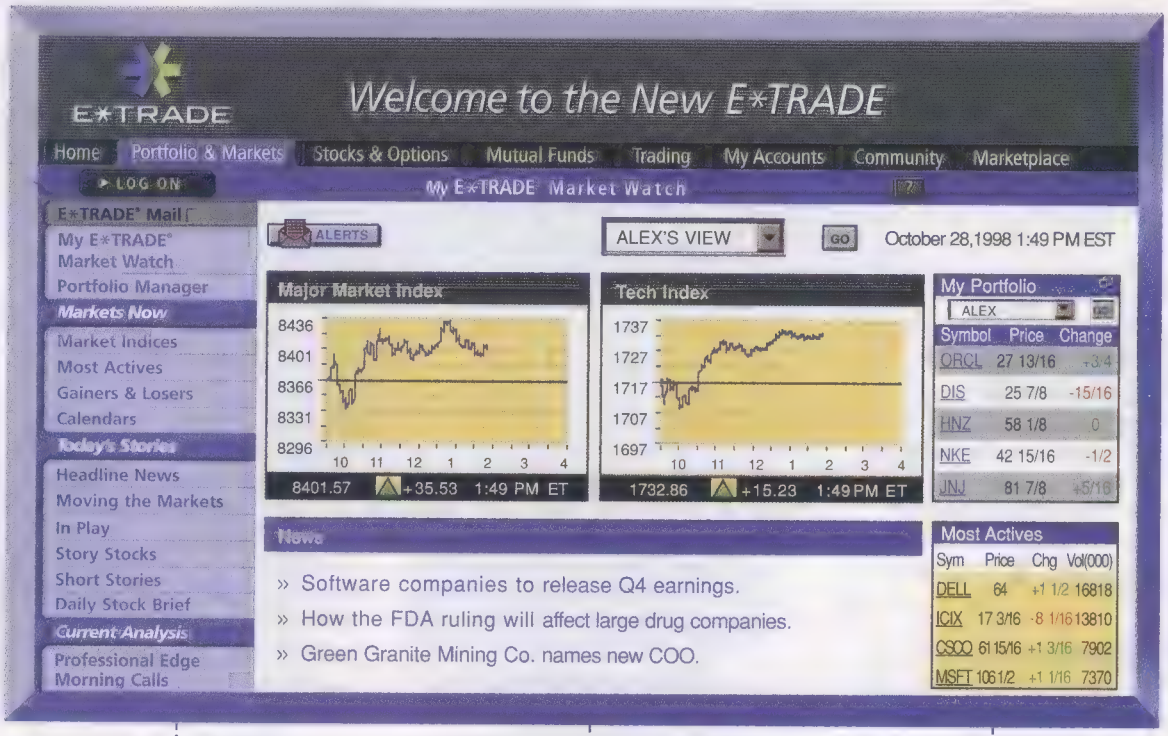

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Stinkers

Just like someone who overindulges at a bad burrito bar, the Web is poised to pass gas in a frightful way. It will send hordes of innocent bystanders fleeing in all directions. Billions of dollars will be wafted away in venomous fumes. And those left with stinging eyes (and thinner wallets) will have only themselves to blame. Why? Stock-price feeding frenzy has returned to the Internet with a vengeance. Suckers all over the world are betting big on the next Sure Thing. Let's face it: Much of the NASDAQ is becoming a casino for imbeciles.

That's unfair, cluck speculators. Well, consider some of today's Sure Things: Amazon.com's $11 billion market valuation is worth more than Borders Books and Barnes & Noble combined (Amazon.com *still* isn't profitable). EBay, the auction site, is worth more than Toys "R" Us and Neiman Marcus combined (nearly 10 percent of its revenues come from sales of Beanie Babies). And only months ago, the stock price of Ticketmaster's Internet IPO quadrupled on the first day of trading (its franchise for aging rock stars was sewn up years before it came to the Web). Before you bet on the next Sure Thing, consider some stinkers in the making.

AOL They don't call it AO-Hell for nothing. Chronic busy signals and obnoxious come-ons are just a few of the problems plaguing this glorified ISP. To many, an AOL e-mail address is an embarrassment. The company's new partners Netscape and Sun Microsystems mostly add debt, not competitive advantage, to AOL's fortunes. Your phone company offers better service—minus the trashy ads. Besides, it costs less.

CDnow This music retailer serves up a searchable catalog that accepts credit cards, and arranges for home delivery. Oh wait, Music Boulevard has the same service and the same CDs for $1 less. And so do dozens of other sites. Click-click, bye. Let's not even mention the Internet's huge stash of free MP3 tunes. . . .

EToys It staked out Web territory early and it categorizes and reviews toys with great finesse. But there's nothing here that competitors—including outfits like Toys "R" Us—can't copy once their bureaucratic minions get their act together.

E*Trade At least 70 brokerages have been lured to the Internet. For most, the back-office efficiencies of paperless transactions haven't pumped sunshine into the bottom line. And the increased competition has forced all houses to keep slashing commissions. A year ago, rates of $19.95 per 1,000 shares were eye-catching. Now, rates of $14, $12, and even $7 abound.

Travelocity Selling airline seats over the Web will be a multibillion-dollar business. But who will do the selling? The airlines—which continue to slash commissions they pay to agents—want to bypass travel services altogether. After all, why buy the cow?

GeoCities With 19.2 million monthly visitors, the ad potential for this site is colossal. But in 1997, the company barely snagged $5 million of a $906 million online ad market. Why? Advertisers shun the site's user-generated content (taxidermy, optometery, whips and chains?).

Yahoo Yes, portals are the Web's blue-chip stocks. But we've all seen what cable TV did to the networks. With thousands of new sites flocking to the Net every day, advertisers enjoy less expensive ways to target specific markets. Yahoo's current stock value exceeds that of the *New York Times.* You do the math.

E-mail taylor&jerome@zd.com

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID PERRY

Let's face it: Much of the **NASDAQ** is becoming a **casino** for **imbeciles.**

Windows Software Breakthrough

PCWEEK BEST OF COMDEX FINALIST

New Product Wins Big at Comdex

For anyone who uses a PC and gets frustrated by their unintended mistakes or unexplained system problems, GoBack™ allows them to simply go back in time to when things worked.

We did this demo a hundred times at COMDEX. It amazed people. It earned us Finalist for the Best of Comdex at the top PC show in the country.

Into Word we go as another demo begins. We enter some important text, saving it out to "important.doc". Now this is where the onlookers smile. We kill the computer! How? We delete the entire Windows directory and of course, empty the Recycle Bin. We move key directories around and overwrite critical files. System trashed. Looking out at the Comdex crowd we challenge anyone to fix it. An IT person turns away in disbelief. Well, wait until you see this, guys.

We turn the PC on and off (what we all really do in a panic). It powers up and what do we see, an entirely new screen. It is the GoBack™ Boot Window (trumpets sound). It has appeared even before the operating system tried to start, which is great, because this PC is really in trouble. But, even without getting Windows to start, and without any special disks, GoBack is there and asking if we need help. Well, we say yes.

GoBack offers pretty much one option: fix the problem by going back in time, and it recommends ten minutes ago. Some IT person in the crowd wants to go back to yesterday, but let's do that in the next demo. *We explain that GoBack provides you with the ability to send your PC back in time, minutes, hours, and even days ago, to an arbitrary point, a time that you select.* Pretty cool.

What's revolutionary about this product is that you don't have to understand what got changed in order to fix it. You simply go back to exactly the way things were at a better time.

The demo continues and the PC restarts. Everything has snapped back to ten minutes ago. "Wait," someone calls out from the crowd, "what about that important document you created just before reverting back in time. Is it lost?" Now it's our turn to smile.

They are amazed as a PC is trashed and restored without using a backup.

Though GoBack got us through the "I cannot get my PC to start" panic scenario, there are even more features, like getting a lost file back from a few moments ago. Let's create a virtual drive. It's just like your main drive C: except that it acts as a window in time. Set its clock and the virtual drive shows your hard drive as it was, at the time you select.

We dial in a few minutes ago, before the revert, but after the document was created. "How do you know what time to choose?" It's easy because of GoBack's detailed notes showing our every move. Someone observes, "This is like having the ability to make a backup after you realize you need it."

We look at drive E: (the virtual drive) and sure enough, it appears much like drive C:. But, in its *My Documents* folder, there is our "important.doc". It's back! Another in the crowd mumbles they could have used this last week. We double-click on the file and Word opens the document.

You can also recover a file by name. Regardless of whether you overwrote or deleted the file, GoBack can generally get it back. In the File Recovery Window we see our file right on top! Further down in the list are even older versions. Another click and the file is retrieved. "That's easy."

"What's the catch," a skeptic asks. There is none. GoBack doesn't slow your PC down, you don't have to remember to do anything (a real strong point), but when you need it, GoBack is there. It's like an automatic constant backup. GoBack does use some of your disk space, but not that much. Typically, 10% gives you a long reach back.

Most importantly, GoBack is available now for Windows 95 and 98, with NT available shortly.

"All right, we're sold on this *time travel technology*, but what does it cost?" **Only $69.95**. In fact, at this price, we are confident that in a month or two GoBack will pay for itself in saved time and heartache many times over.

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Infolink 180 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

E-Biz Busters

All the prognosticators will tell you that e-commerce is going to set the world on fire. Cynical as I am, I see no reason to believe they're wrong. But unless we fix some serious flaws in the way we approach e-business, it will stall in much the same way as push technology, pen-based computing, and everything else where hype outpaces common sense. Appropriate technology decisions will drive success in every aspect of the Net—particularly when they take advantage of solutions that already exist. Many of these are far superior to Web-based offerings.

For example, you can stream broadcast-quality video down a Net pipe if you have enough bandwidth. But why bother when there are several ways to deliver a good video signal now—including broadcast, cablecast, videotape, and satellite? DVD is also a player. Still, during the early Internet explosion people kept talking about using the Net for "video on demand" and other inappropriate uses.

Just because you can do something with a technology doesn't mean you should. My car can crush walnuts, but a nutcracker does the job just fine. Of course, it's different when you're providing something that can't be had any other way, like a Net radio broadcast from your old home town.

There will also be failures, since a lot of stuff is better sold through catalogs than on the Web—most clothes, shoes, toys, and impulse items. Other factors will come to bear as well:

Retail E-commerce mavens seem to assume that retailers are going to roll over to Internet commerce without a fight. Wrong. Retailing has changed enormously over the years, and retailers have a lot of experience selling things to people who visit stores. Personally I expect retailing to get bigger than ever during the growth of e-commerce. Remember the so-called paperless office and how it was going to revolutionize business? Anyone who invested in paper the day the term *paperless office* was invented is rich by now.

Merchandising This is what computers don't do well. I don't mean selling—you can probably sell anything over the Net with the right sales pitch. But it's the leveraged sales pitch that makes the wheels turn. This means a sales pitch that is not delivered by any one person, and not delivered to any one person.

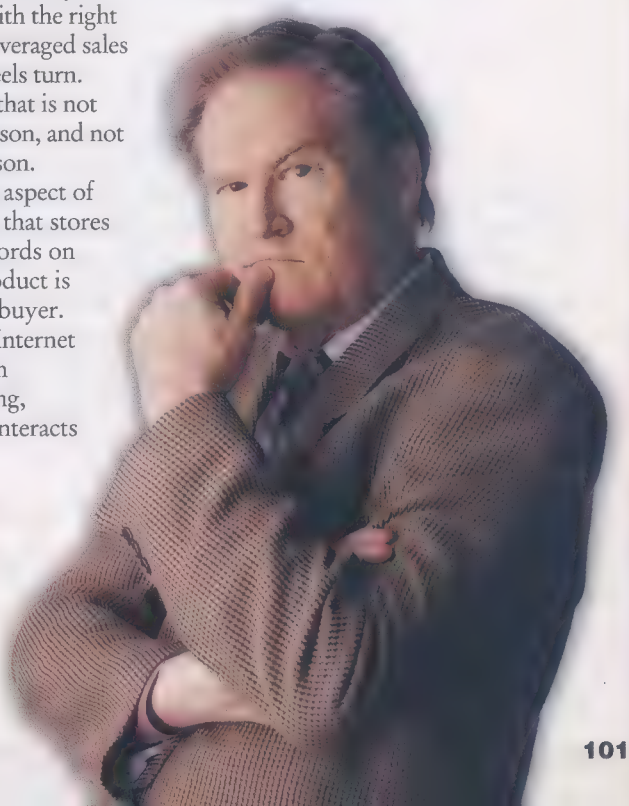
Merchandising is one aspect of the leveraged sales pitch that stores do best—the box, the words on the box, the way the product is presented to a potential buyer. On the other hand, the Internet outdoes stores in custom or targeted merchandising, whereby the computer interacts one-on-one to sell the right product for individualized needs.

Best-sellers Businesses that use a database-oriented system for known commodities will prosper. Sellers of CDs, books, health remedies, and computer products took off. Storefront retailers can't compete with a database; there are far too many products to be held in any one store and nobody can keep track of them all. Amazon used the database formula for books. But how many businesses can?

Small Change The world economy does $3 trillion a year in small cash transactions, but it's almost impossible to buy anything on the Net for less than $5. This eliminates millions of nickel-dime-dollar sales. A small-cash system should be a no-brainer, since the world banking and credit system is already based on computer-to-computer transfers. All it takes is some programming.

This silly failure alone does not bode well for e-commerce in the short term.

E-mail pccdvorak@zd.com



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID PERRY

It's almost impossible to buy anything on the Net for **less than $5.** This should be a **no-brainer.**

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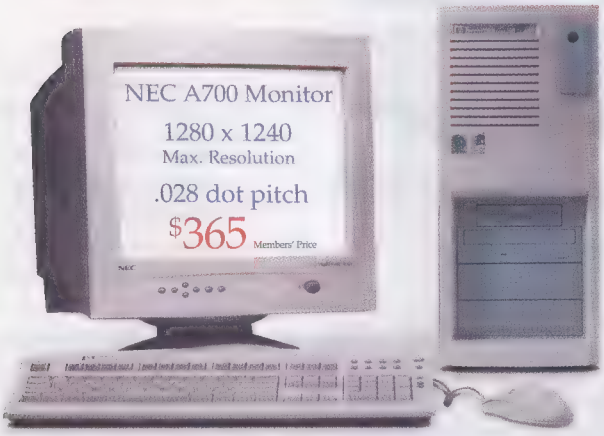

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New!

Perfect Browser

IE5 is faster, smarter, and more reliable. Is it finally time to switch? By Ed Bott

If you think Internet Explorer and Netscape Communicator are just about browsing the Web, think again. Microsoft and Netscape are fighting a battle for your heart and mind—and, more important, your wallet—and the browser is their chief weapon. If you choose a Microsoft browser, you'll really upgrade your copy of Windows with a far-reaching set of Internet components. If you use Communicator's new Navigator browser, on the other hand, you'll find yourself pushed, pulled, tugged, and occasionally dragged kicking and screaming to Netscape's Netcenter portal.

We looked at the second technical beta of Internet Explorer 5.0 and a shipping copy of Navigator 4.5. Both are free to download from their Web sites, or available on CD for a nominal charge.

Smooth Setup Superficially at least, IE5 is a slicker, faster, easier-to-use version of IE4, with dozens of tiny improvements and a reorganized interface that collectively make everyday tasks easier. In this upgrade, Microsoft has cleaned out much of the irritating clutter that made IE4 look bloated—like the desktop Channels bar—while adding components you'll need for Microsoft Office 2000 and other applications. For anyone who was put off by IE4's insistence on hijacking the desktop, the cleaner, less intrusive IE5 is a big improvement.

Navigator 4.5's user interface is essentially unchanged. The big difference is the addition of keyword searching and a relentless focus on the Netcenter portal. Installing the upgrade was effortless on both Windows 95 and Windows 98, and when we started the browser, we connected with Netcenter, as expected. We were startled, though, to discover a dirty trick—the default Navigator setup brazenly resets Internet Explorer's startup page and search options as well.

Head Start Many of the usability tweaks in Internet Explorer 5.0 first appeared in Office 97 and IE4, but they're notably refined here. The AutoComplete feature, for example, helps you quickly jump to Web sites you've visited previously. When you begin typing in the browser's Address box, a dialog box drops down displaying matching entries from the History list. Similarly, filling in Web-based forms is easier because IE5 contains an option to save usernames, passwords, and other data.

The usability improvements extend to the administrator's desk too. You can fully control every configuration, including security and proxy settings, from the free Internet Explorer Administration Kit. It's possible to do the same with Netscape Mission Control, but only if you've anted up $1,995 for the minimum 50-seat license.

Smarter Searches The crown jewel of IE5's interface is the Explorer Bar—a frame just to the left of the browser window that hosts navigation controls. The most useful of the four built-in controls is the Search pane, which lets you quickly connect to common search engines to find Web pages, people, and companies. Although it superficially resembles the version that debuted in IE4, this Search bar is radically revamped, and it's a model of efficient interface design. It's also supremely customizable.

By contrast, clicking on Navigator's Search button sends you to a page on the Netcenter portal, and chasing links takes you to still more pages, with frequent detours through Netcenter. Both

☆☆☆☆☆

Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.0

VERDICT The fastest, most flexible browser you can find—and the Channels bar is gone.

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CONS: Full installation requires 100MB.

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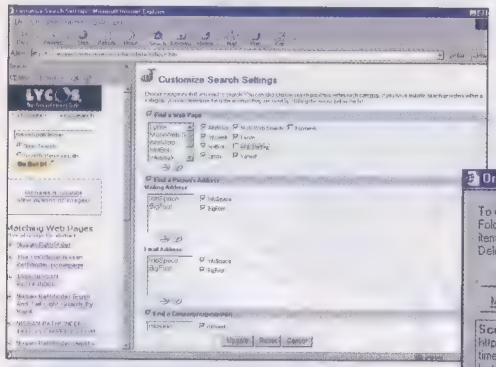
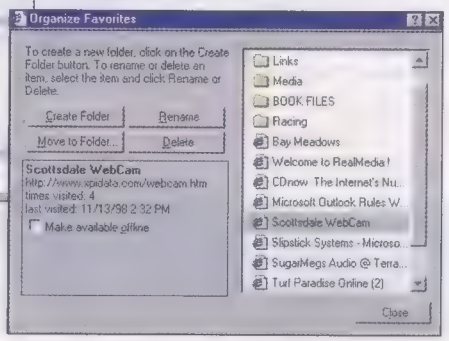


Let's Go Exploring **IE5's Explorer bars, including the Search pane at the left, are a huge usability improvement and are easy to customize to your preferences.**

Usability Tweaks **Internet Explorer 5.0 includes dozens of refinements, like this streamlined dialog box for organizing Favorites.**



★★★

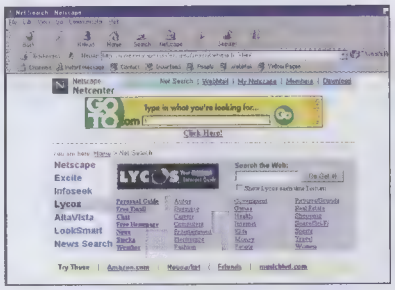
Netscape Communicator 4.5

VERDICT Every other click takes you back to Netscape's portal page—we're hoping Communicator 5.0 fares better.

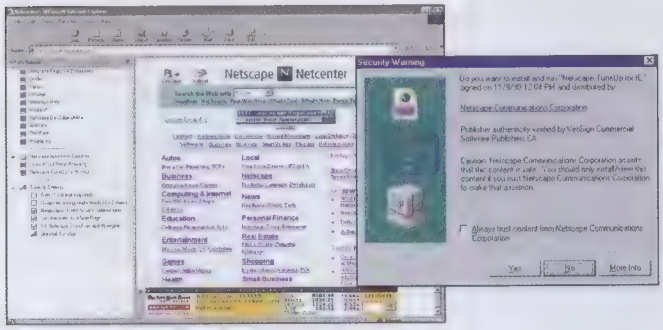
PROS: Microsoft didn't write it.

CONS: Surprisingly slow and difficult to customize.

Free to download / Netscape Communications Corp. / (650) 937-3777 / www.netscape.com / InfoLink No. 802



Netcenter Ad Nauseam **At every turn, Navigator sends you to the Netcenter portal site; it even configures IE to go there.**



Heavy-handed **Netscape's TuneUp for IE is an ActiveX control that adds these Netcenter shortcuts to your IE browser window.**

browsers support keyword searching. IE simply feeds the search terms to Yahoo. Navigator, on the other hand, includes a list of predefined associations between sites and common commercial keywords. If Navigator doesn't recognize the keywords, it sends you to Netcenter's search page.

Bar Hopping Explorer bars aren't just for searching—they also make it easier to add and organize Favorites than previous IE versions did, although power users will be frustrated by the lack of a tree-style interface for dragging and dropping shortcuts. Navigator 4.5 doesn't offer improvements in bookmark management—that's a shame, because we predict you'll want to clear the 60 default bookmarks on Netscape's list, most of which simply point back to Netcenter.

IE5's History bar lets you find nearly any page you've viewed recently, as long as it's still in the cache. You can display the contents of the cache by day, site, or frequency of access. Best of all, you can click on the Search button to quickly find a specific word or phrase. No other browser comes close to giving you this level of control over the contents of the cache. And the IE5 synchronization tools are far simpler to set up and use than the awkward channels and subscriptions in IE4. Mobile users will also appreciate the new capability to define multiple connection settings—so you can use a different proxy server in each regional office and bypass the proxy settings for a direct dial-up connection, without having to reconfigure the browser.

Because IE5 is completely component based, developers can add custom controls called Web Accessories that plug into the Explorer bar or into a predefined slot along the bottom of the window. Ironically, Netscape has taken advantage of IE's add-in capabilities to build an ActiveX control called Netscape TuneUp for IE, which adds a Netscape-centric navigation bar to the bottom of the IE window that leads you effortlessly to—you guessed it—Netcenter.

We found Internet Explorer 5.0 to be impressively fast, much faster than Navigator 4.5 at every imaginable task. On our 200MHz K6 test system, IE5 loaded in 9 seconds or less, while Navigator took more than 15 seconds. IE was consistently faster at loading complex Web pages, with a performance edge of 10 to 50 percent in our tests.

As the difference in version numbers would suggest, IE5 is a more mature, polished browser than Navigator 4.5. With its support for XML and dynamic HTML, it's also well poised for the future. Netscape promises its 5.0 browser will include a faster rendering engine that supports the latest Web standards. We'll see. Until then, IE earns our unqualified recommendation for everyone except diehard Netscape partisans.

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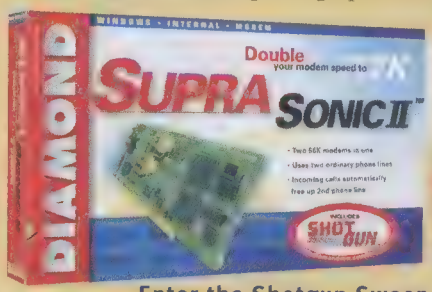

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Ultracheap PCs

All the system you need—for $600 or less.

By Marty Jerome

Six months ago, an entry-level PC cost the equivalent of a double-breasted designer suit at Saks Fifth Avenue. Today, think Sears.

Three new systems, from IBM, Microworkz, and MEI/MicroCenter, blow away the magic $1,000 price point and put a PC on your desktop for less than $600. Care to try one on?

Blue Light Special **Goodbye $1,000 PC. Hello $600 box. Low-cost machines from (left to right) IBM, MEI/MicroCenter, and Microworkz fit just about any budget.**

Three-Figure PC We're talking fully loaded systems here: modems, CD-ROM drives, audio—the works. What we're not talking is power. All three machines are certifiable snoozers, trailing Tagram's $1,052 300MHz Pentium II by 33 to 46 percent. But for word processing, spreadsheets, and Web surfing, these systems will do just fine.

IBM's new Aptiva D1N starts at $599, though you'll have to add $199 for a 15-inch monitor. The sleek desktop box is only about twice the size of a closed notebook PC, so it's ideal for cramped cubicles and home offices. But its two free slots and no spare drive bays mean you better be happy with the standard configuration.

Fortunately, the Aptiva serves up plenty for the dollar. It has a 225MHz IBM CPU licensed from Cyrix that boasts 64K of L1 cache and 512K of L2 cache, as well as 32MB of memory (though 4MB are dedicated to video circuitry). There's a generous 3.2GB hard drive, a 32X CD-ROM drive, integrated audio with stereo speakers, and a 56Kbps fax modem. It even comes with USB ports and a decent software bundle.

Too rich for your blood? The Microworkz zPC starts at $499—including a monitor. We upgraded our test unit with a sound card, speakers, and a 56Kbps fax modem, bringing our total cost to $589.

The zPC is powered by Cyrix's 300MHz M2 CPU. It comes with 32MB of memory, expandable to 256MB, and, like the Aptiva, it packs a 3.2GB hard drive. You'll also find a 2MB video card and a 12X CD-ROM drive. The zPC proved the fastest of the trio, pulling ahead of the IBM by 19 percent in our Windows application benchmarks. And its expandable minitower design means you can build up as you see fit.

Cheap Thrills Our $599 PowerSpec 4321 came with a 300MHz Intel Celeron processor. Alas, it was the slowest of the three systems we tested, lagging behind the zPC by 24 percent. A Celeron-with-cache version, expected by the time you read this, should improve performance significantly.

You get a lot for the money, though. The PowerSpec has 32MB of memory, a 3.2GB hard drive, a 32X CD-ROM drive, a 56Kbps fax modem, and the best graphics accelerator of the pack: a 4MB 3-D Accelerated Graphics Port (AGP) card. PowerSpec even loads its box with a bunch of software. The only downside is the extra $149 you have to pay for a 15-inch monitor.

If you need power, you'll be better served spending a couple hundred dollars more on a $1,000 PC. But for a basic setup that you can slip comfortably into your department's budget, these sub-$600 systems, especially the Microworkz zPC, are an incredible value.

☆☆☆☆☆

Microworkz zPC

VERDICT The best of the cheapies.

PROS: Sizzling dollar value; best performance of the bunch.

CONS: Slow CD; extras cost . . . well, extra.

Starts at $499 est. street price / Microworkz / (888) 538-5791 / InfoLink No. 803

☆☆☆☆

IBM Aptiva D1N

VERDICT Finally! An IBM we can all afford.

PROS: Pleasing compact size; excellent configuration for the dollar.

CONS: Video filches from system memory; doglike performance.

Starts at $599 est. street price / IBM Corp. / (800) 426-7235 ext. 4340 / InfoLink No. 804

☆☆☆☆

PowerSpec 4321

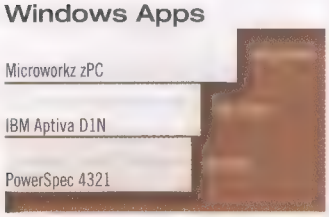
VERDICT The only sub-$600 PC with Intel inside.

PROS: High-end configuration; low-end price.

CONS: Slower than a tax return.

Starts at $599 est. street price / MEI/MicroCenter / (888) 621-0254 / InfoLink No. 805

Windows Apps



NOTE: WINSTONE 99 MEASURES A PC'S OVERALL PERFORMANCE WHEN RUNNING THE MOST POPULAR WINDOWS-BASED 32-BIT BUSINESS APPS. ALL TESTS WERE PERFORMED ON A DELL DIMENSION XPS R450.

Slow-Mo **None of these systems are screamers—especially when compared with speedy Pentium IIs. But of the three, the Microworkz zPC stole a commanding lead.**

Flying Colors

The first sub-$2,000 color laser printer is here.

By Kyla K. Carlson

Color You Can Afford **For just $1,995, Tektronix's Phaser 740 delivers crisp color output, fast print speeds, and Ethernet network support.**

★★★★

Tektronix Phaser 740

VERDICT Wow! Color for nothing.

PROS: Zippy speeds, great output.

CONS: Backgrounds a bit splotchy; only 5 pages per minute in color.

$1,995 est. street price / Tektronix / (800) 835-6100, (503) 682-7377 / InfoLink No. 806

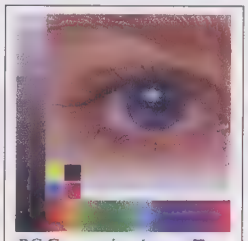
You used to be able to get by. It was easier to settle for a monochrome networked printer than to duck the flying staplers thrown by an outraged accounting department. But bringing color printing to your network is no longer an extravagance. Tell those bean counters about the new Tektronix Phaser 740 color laser printer. And don't forget to tell them it costs less than $2,000. It won't be long before they're asking for a networked color laser printer in their department too.

Hello Good Buy Don't let the price fool you; the Phaser 740 is no bare-bones machine. Out of the box, this color network laser printer comes with 32MB of RAM and resolutions of 1,200 dpi monochrome and 600 dpi color. For $700 more, you can purchase the Phaser 740 Plus, which gives you 64MB and 1,200-dpi color output.

And if you're thinking you'll have to settle for less than stellar performance, you're wrong. The Phaser 740 is rated at 5 ppm in color and 16 ppm in monochrome. The printer proved snappy in our tests, outpacing Hewlett-Packard's $5,200 Color LaserJet 4500DN by 27 percent when printing a 50-page text document. The Phaser 740 maintained its lead with Photoshop documents as well, churning out pages 64 percent faster than the 4500DN. Presentation speeds for the Phaser 740 were a little sluggish, coming in 25 percent slower than the 4500DN and requiring just less than 2 minutes for a 3-page presentation.

Looks Matter True to Tektronix's reputation for knockout color, the Phaser 740 serves up eye-pleasing documents. Text is sharp and has a rich, bold appearance. Photographic images are smooth and contain a high level of detail. Close inspection reveals some dithering, especially with lighter colors, but this is a minor point. Presentation output is perfectly acceptable, though we were unimpressed with the quality of solid backgrounds. We found them splotchy and not as smooth as they could be, but smaller business graphic images looked fine.

The Phaser 740 isn't the fastest printer by any stretch of the imagination. Lexmark's new Optra 1200C is turning heads with its 12-ppm *color* engine. But for those speeds you have to pay—on the order of three times the cost of the Phaser 740. HP's Color LaserJet 4500DN is a closer competitor to the Phaser 740, but even this printer costs more than twice as much. For now, the Phaser 740 is in a class by itself. It doesn't skimp on features, and it gives you fast text speeds, competitive graphics speeds, great-looking photographs, and acceptable business documents. For $1,995, it doesn't get much better.



PC Computing Image Test

Picture Perfect **The Phaser 740 does an excellent job with photographic images, producing smooth flesh tones and detail-rich output.**

Cruise the Web In Comfort

★★★

Kensington WebRacer

VERDICT Surf while relaxing 8 feet away.

PROS: Comfortable design; handy buttons for Web cruising.

CONS: Not wireless; bulky.

$60 est. street price / Kensington / (800) 280-8318 / InfoLink No. 807

Stop hunching over your keyboard. Kensington's WebRacer is a touch pad built for cruising the Web in comfort. The device is designed to be cradled in your hand similarly to a television remote control, and its 8-foot cable lets you sit back in your chair and kick your feet up.

Despite its large size, the WebRacer has a pleasing feel. Six autolaunch buttons zip you to your favorite Web sites (to set these buttons, simply hold one in for a few seconds when you're at a desired site). You'll also find browser navigation buttons (Back, Reload, Stop), a scroll button, and a button that summons a tiny onscreen keyboard for quick text entry such as keyword searches.

If you're not a fan of touch pads, you can always connect both a mouse and the Kensington WebRacer to your PC and alternate between them when you need to.

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Smooth Sounds of USB

Pump digital audio directly to your speakers.

By Jason Toates

☆☆☆☆
Microsoft Digital Sound System 80
VERDICT Digital audio that rivals high-end home stereo systems.
PROS: Crisp sound; slick software.
CONS: Audio suffers when multitasking.
$250 est. street price / Microsoft / (800) 426-9400 / InfoLink No. 811

Wake Up the Neighbors
Microsoft's new USB Digital Sound System 80 delivers stunning digital audio—from your PC.

USB isn't just for mice and printers anymore. Microsoft's new speaker set, the $250 Digital Sound System 80, uses the USB port to pump out distortion-free digital audio.

The sleek black three-piece unit—two 16-watt satellites and a 44-watt subwoofer—connects directly to your PC's USB port. This USB setup bypasses your PC's sound card and outputs a digital signal directly to Microsoft's speakers. The result is crisp, clean audio that rivals the best high-end home stereo systems.

You can customize the sound to your liking using the Sound System's slick software—a 10-band programmable equalizer and a virtual surround sound feature. And since the Sound System is also compatible with non-PC audio devices, you can plug in anything from a portable CD player to a game station.

But don't throw away your sound card yet. USB audio requires a lot of processing power to transmit uninterrupted audio. Even with a 400MHz Pentium II, we noticed choppy audio output when multitasking. Thankfully, the speakers can always connect to your sound card if necessary. USB audio also requires Windows 98, and if your CD-ROM or DVD-ROM drive is not capable of playing digital audio (check the CD Music tab in the Multimedia section of the Control Panel), the sound is automatically redirected to the sound card.

If your system meets the criteria for USB audio, the Microsoft Digital Sound System 80 offers a crisp digital sound that your ears will instantly appreciate.

Digital Smart Film

Turn your APS camera's analog film into digital images.

By Sarah L. Roberts-Witt

☆☆☆☆
Kodak Advantix Film Drive FD300
VERDICT Quick and painless way to get digital images without a digital camera.
PROS: Easy installation; affordable.
CONS: Works only with APS cameras.
$349 est. street price / Eastman Kodak / (888) 242-2424 / InfoLink No. 812

So you don't have a digital camera, but you want digital images? Thanks to the $349 Kodak Advantix Film Drive FD300, you can at long last have your own private digital photo shop. You need a camera that uses Advanced Photo System (APS) film, such as the popular Canon Elph, and you have to develop your film conventionally before the drive can scan the film cartridge. Aside from that, it's hard to find fault with this device. It's affordable and a breeze to use, and it includes Adobe PhotoDeluxe, Adobe PageMill, Kodak's own Picture Easy 3.0, and the FD300 Launcher Software.

Installing the Film Drive was easy. After all the hardware and software components were in place, we loaded an APS film cassette into the drive and waited while it scanned and thumbnailed the images; this took only about 3.5 minutes for a 25-exposure cassette.

Personal Photo Lab
Your APS film camera becomes a virtual digital camera with Kodak's Advantix Film Drive.

Once the thumbnails were posted, we cropped, rotated, and enhanced our images from within the Launcher software. However, to print, save, e-mail, or further manipulate them, we had to transfer the images to Picture Easy or Adobe PhotoDeluxe.

Overall, the Film Drive is great for the small-business user looking to create digital images of products or for the casual enthusiast eager to e-mail photos of baby to friends and family.

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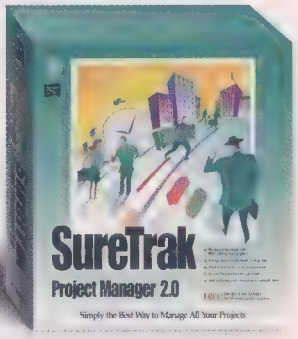

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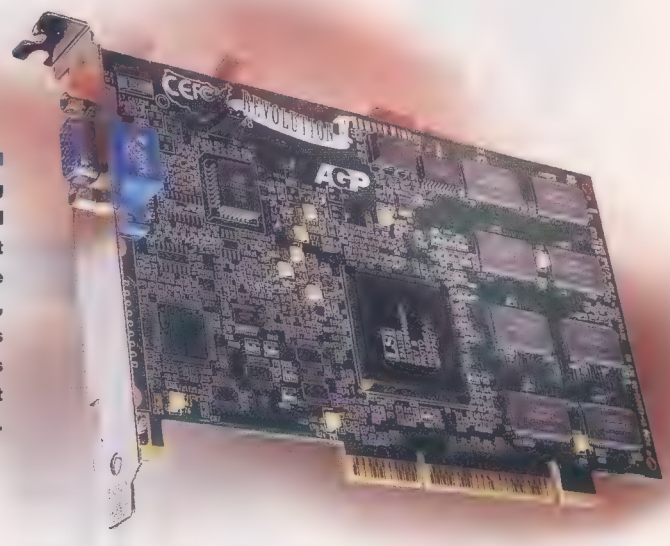
Leading the Graphics Revolution

Number Nine's Revolution IV accelerator packs RAM and power. By Julie Polito

Just because you don't play Quake death matches 12 hours a day online doesn't mean you don't have serious graphics needs. The new Number Nine Revolution IV brings a hefty dose of graphics firepower to your work PC so you can crunch the tasks that put bread on the table—and it won't leave you in the lurch when you fire up your favorite 3-D game.



Fully Loaded **If you're doing sophisticated graphics work but need an affordable graphics board, Number Nine's Revolution IV gives you ample power at a great price.**

Heavy Duty The Revolution IV comes in two versions: a card with 16MB of SDRAM and one with an obscene 32MB of SDRAM. The latter may be overkill when you're balancing your books or setting up a mail merge, but that full load of memory is just what you need to create sophisticated Web pages, CAD drawings, 3-D models, and other complex renderings smoothly and efficiently. Yes, the board is designed primarily for work, but it's designed for graphics-intensive work.

Built around Number Nine's own 128-bit Ticket to Ride IV chipset, the board includes full AGP 2X sideband support, with a 250MHz digital-to-analog converter (DAC) and two 128-bit–wide video pipelines. The Revolution IV supports all standard monitor resolutions in 32-bit, 16.8-million–color splendor, and even ramps up to 1,920 by 1,200 resolution at 16-bit color. You'll find support for DirectX 5.0 and 6.0 and OpenGL, as well as for advanced 3-D effects such as interpolated fogging, alpha blending, and trilinear filtering. And if you want to start screening movies on your PC, you'll be pleased to find DVD playback among the Revolution IV's long list of features.

The onscreen picture this board pumps out is excellent, whether you're looking at a Windows desktop, at a Web page, or into the eyes of your virtual gaming opponent. Colors are deep and true, images load quickly, and motion stays smooth well into the high resolutions. For 3-D games, you don't get quite the high-resolution speed you would get from a Voodoo2 or Riva TNT board, but if you're a business graphics user with a side passion for games, the Revolution IV won't disappoint.

Payback Time In our performance tests, the Revolution IV's extra juice translates into positive but not overwhelming results. True, the 32MB Revolution IV outpaced the 16MB Matrox Millennium G200, but it's not the runaway benchmark score difference you might expect. The Revolution is faster by only 3 percent (see "Windows 3-D Apps," below). In our 2-D business benchmarks, however, the G200 outpaced the Revolution IV by 6 percent.

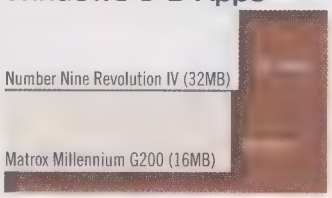
A few performance points shouldn't be enough to sway you from one card to another, but the Revolution IV's nice price adds to its appeal. The 32MB version of the Revolution IV costs $189, actually a few bucks less than the 16MB Millennium G200. And at $149, the 16MB Revolution IV is a terrific bargain.

The bundled HawkEye graphics software makes it a cinch to fine-tune the Revolution IV with your monitor and includes some handy extras like zoom and virtual desktops.

As the line between work PCs and PC workstations starts to blur, the Number Nine Revolution IV is a graphics solution that makes a lot of sense. If you just want to play games, stick with one of the Riva TNT boards from Diamond or STB or a Voodoo2 card like the Diamond Monster Fusion. All offer high performance and good game bundles. But if graphics are your business, the Revolution IV will take you a long way for very little cash.

☆☆☆☆☆
Number Nine Revolution IV
VERDICT If you're serious about graphics, this is the board for you.
PROS: Fast performance; 128-bit bus.
CONS: Small boost from extra RAM.
$149 (16MB), $189 (32MB), est. street prices / Number Nine Visual Technology / (800) 438-6463 / InfoLink No. 813

Windows 3-D Apps



NOTE: 3D WINBENCH 99 MEASURES THE PERFORMANCE OF A PC'S 3-D SUBSYSTEM UNDER WINDOWS 98. ALL TESTS WERE PERFORMED ON A DELL DIMENSION XPS R450.

RAM Powered **Thanks to its 32MB of RAM, Number Nine's Revolution IV edged out Matrox's 16MB Millennium G200 by a few points in our 3-D performance test.**

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Color for the Entire Office

Two-of-a-kind color lasers.

By Kyla K. Carlson

Everything's better in color: charts, reports, and especially presentations. But not all color laser printers are created equal. NEC and Tally offer printers that produce perfectly acceptable output—but their speeds are slow and their prices high for the lackluster features they offer.

Make an Impression **NEC's SuperScript 4400N (left) and Tally's Spectra*Star T8104+ deliver sharp output. But speeds are lackluster and prices high compared with other color laser printers.**

Separated at Birth

The NEC SuperScript 4400N and the Tally Spectra*Star T8104+ are based on the same printing engine and appear to be identical twins. Both are easy to set up and sport front-loading toner cartridges.

Once we had the printers humming, we were overtaken by noxious fumes. Each printer produced a smell that overpowered our well-ventilated labs. Neither NEC nor Tally could offer a solution—though it's possible the fumes lessen after a significant amount of use. But we suggest an open location if you choose one of these printers.

Each printer has a 16-ppm monochrome engine and a 4-ppm color engine and uses the Printer Control Language. The Spectra*Star printed circles around the SuperScript 4400N for monochrome text, churning out a 10-page document 25 percent faster, and a 50-page document 65 percent faster. However, we found the text speeds of both printers woefully slow compared with those of Lexmark's Optra Color 1200 and Hewlett-Packard's Color LaserJet 4500DN (see "No-Compromise Color Lasers," December 1998, page 104). These printers performed almost three times as fast as the Spectra*Star when printing a 10-page text document.

Presentation speeds were no better, with the Optra Color 1200 performing about three times faster than the SuperScript 4400N, and the Spectra*Star printing a 3-page presentation 60 percent slower than the SuperScript. Clearly you should think twice before hitching either to your network.

Image Is Everything

Overall, the Spectra*Star's output is impressive. We noticed some banding in a heavily coated magenta presentation background, but the printer handled blue and black backgrounds flawlessly. Although the SuperScript 4400N didn't have any problems printing solid backgrounds, its colors weren't as vibrant as the Spectra*Star's, and its output appeared a bit washed-out.

Text quality is excellent with both printers. The SuperScript 4400N's letters are a bit bolder and blacker than the Spectra*Star's, but both printers produce letters that are sharp, clean, and free of toner splatter.

In addition to decent-looking output, the SuperScript 4400N offers a low price tag, coming in just shy of $3,000, including 96MB of RAM and an Ethernet adapter. The Spectra*Star's $4,499 price tag is $700 higher than the HP Color LaserJet 4500DN's and $1,500 lower than that of the Lexmark Optra Color 1200. But the Spectra*Star's performance can't touch either of these printers.

If you have cash to burn, spring for the Lexmark Optra Color 1200 over the HP Color LaserJet 4500DN. While the Tally Spectra*Star T8104+ has the edge over the NEC SuperScript 4400N, neither offers much to sway you from either of those top-rated printers. Want a bargain laser? Check out Tektronix's $1,995 Phaser 740 (page 112).

☆☆☆

NEC SuperScript 4400N

VERDICT A ho-hum color laser.

PROS: Rich, good-looking text output.
CONS: Can print color only with PostScript; slow text speeds; colors slightly faded.

$2,999 est. street price / NEC Technologies / (800) 632-4636 / InfoLink No. 815

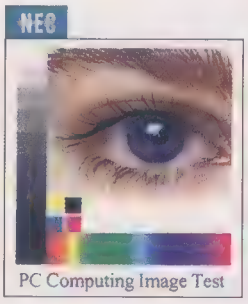
☆☆☆

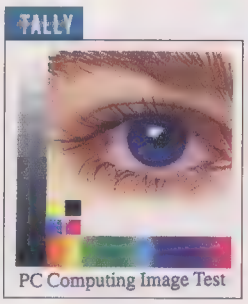
Tally Spectra*Star T8104+

VERDICT Nice output, but a tad more money buys you a better HP printer.

PROS: Vibrant color output; sharp text.
CONS: Pricey; slow color speeds.

$4,499 est. street price / Tally / (425) 251-5500 / InfoLink No. 814





High Contrast **The Tally Spectra*Star produces photographic output that is truer to original color than that of the NEC SuperScript 4400N, which is too gray. Text from both is excellent.**

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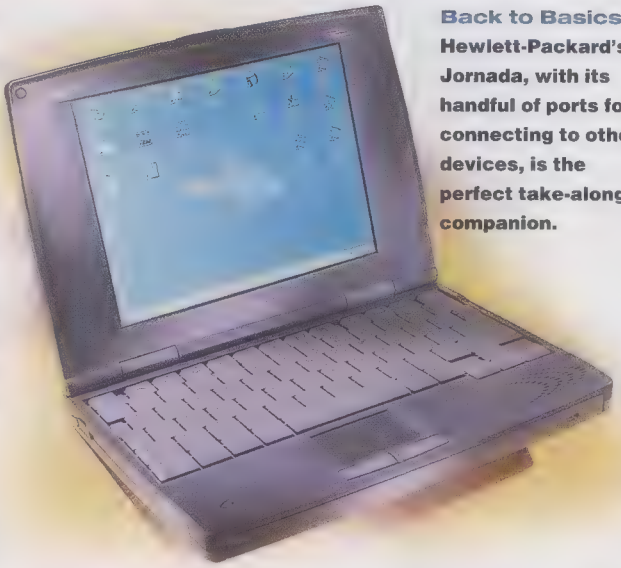
PREVIEW

Powerful PC Companions

A notebook, a handheld PC—or something in between? By Gordon Bass

Sure, you can shell out $700 or $800 for a handheld PC with a pint-size screen and a keyboard that's too tiny to type on. That's fine if all you need is a high-tech organizer. But what if you need to take a few pages of notes or compose e-mail? Surf the Web? Or create a PowerPoint presentation on the go? You need the hybrid offspring of a notebook and a clamshell handheld PC. Enter the Hewlett-Packard Jornada 820 Handheld PC and the Vadem Clio C-1000.

Both are based on Microsoft's Windows CE Handheld PC Professional Edition—commonly known by its code name, Jupiter—which supports multiple display sizes, multiple pointing devices, and USB peripherals. Unlike a small Windows 95 machine such as the Toshiba Libretto, the Clio and the Jornada offer instant on and extended battery life—you can work for 10 hours or more without a recharge, enough for a trans-Pacific flight. Both units include Microsoft HPC Professional's package of apps, including Pocket Word, Pocket Excel, Pocket PowerPoint, Pocket Access, and Voice Recorder. And Windows CE Services 2.1 makes it as painless as possible to synchronize with your PC once you're back in the office.



Back to Basics **Hewlett-Packard's Jornada, with its handful of ports for connecting to other devices, is the perfect take-along companion.**

Quick-Change Artist

Vadem, known mainly as a supplier of mobile-computing technology to other manufacturers, has created a device for futurists: The Clio C-1000 is remarkable for its design. A swivel-hinged display allows for three positions. Open the Clio to type; close it with the screen facing up and use it as a writing tablet (taking advantage of its built-in, first-rate Paragraph Calligrapher handwriting recognition software); or set it up as an easel for presentations. The hinge, made partly of aluminum, adds to the Clio's weight, which reaches 3.2 pounds.

But its other features are more mundane. The Clio's 9.4-inch touch screen has generous real estate and 640 by 480 resolution, but brightness and contrast are poor. You navigate the screen with a stylus—not the most convenient method for a unit of this size. The 33.6Kbps software modem is hardly cutting-edge. And the keyboard is ergonomically curved but still not very comfortable.

Travel Companion

Hewlett-Packard's Jornada 820 takes a more conservative design route but shines in the details. Built around a speedy 190MHz RISC processor (which means its battery may drain slightly faster than the Clio's), the Jornada is a compact, 2.5-pound day-tripper that's perfect for communicating when you're away from the office. A touch pad means your hands never have to leave the comfortable keyboard—and you can plug a mouse into the serial port if you prefer.

The 8.2-inch color supertwist nematic screen is slightly smaller but much brighter than that of the Clio. Jornada sports a built-in 56Kbps V.90 modem, along with software for configuring your ISP account. There's a USB port for peripherals and a VGA port for a monitor—handy if you're giving a presentation. The Clio lacks both of these ports, as well as a serial port. The Jornada and the Clio both have a CompactFlash slot for more permanent storage, and they both have a PC Card Type II slot and an IrDA port.

Some people will insist on the power of a Pentium-based machine, but a PC companion is well worth considering if you don't want to take your entire office with you when you travel. Still, our look at these two preproduction units indicates that only the well-equipped Jornada takes full advantage of Microsoft HPC Professional's benefits.

Do the Twist **The Vadem Clio gets a high score for its visual appeal and funky hinged screen—but loses points for skimping on the important extras.**

☆☆☆☆

HP Jornada 820 Handheld PC

VERDICT A full-featured, well-executed Windows CE note-taker.

PROS: Bright screen; great keyboard; 56Kbps modem; USB and VGA ports.
CONS: Small screen.

$999 est. street price / Hewlett-Packard / (800) 443-1254

☆☆☆

Vadem Clio C-1000

VERDICT Funky design but mediocre performance and features.

PROS: Doubles as a writing pad.
CONS: Dim screen; slow modem; lacks USB, VGA, and serial ports; 3.2 pounds.

$999 est. street price / Vadem / (408) 467-2100 / InfoLink No. 816

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c|net Comdex '98 Coverage

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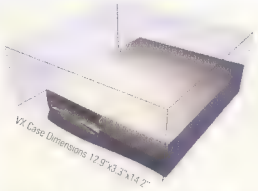

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Quantex VX-400 $1499

Order Code #pcc0274

Above system with Pentium® II processor 400MHz, 128MB SDRAM, 10.2GB Ultra-ATA HD, and 17" Digital Monitor (15.8" viewable).

INTRODUCING!

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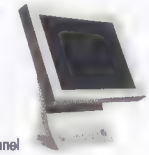

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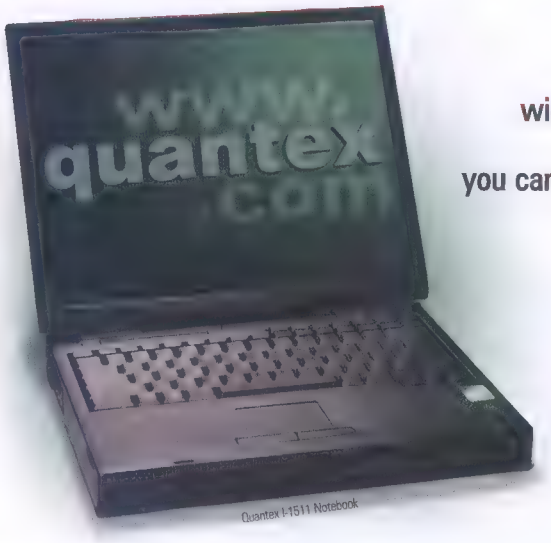

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WINLIST Award Windows Magazine (Oct. 98)

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- Microsoft Office 97 SBE v2.0
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PC World (June 98)

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Above system with Intel Celeron processor 400MHz, 64MB SDRAM, 6.4GB HD

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- *New* Intel Pro 10/100 PCI Fast Ethernet Controller w/RJ-45 and Wake-On-LAN Technology
- 32X Max Variable Speed CD-ROM Drive
- 2 Universal Serial Bus (USB) Ports / DMI 2.0
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS IntelliMouse
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QP6/333 M-1c(with Intel Celeron processor).....$1049
QP6/350 M-1x(with Pentium II processor).....$1149

QP6/400 M-2x $1499

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- *Optional Altec Lansing ACS-251 Subwoofer, add $39*

QP6/350 M-2x(with Pentium II processor).....$1349
QP6/450 M-2x(with Pentium II processor).....$1699

QP6/400 M-3x $1599

Business lease: $56/Mo. **Order Code #pcc0207**

- Pentium® II Processor 400MHz
- 64MB PC100 SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 10.2GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 17" Digital Monitor w/OSD (15.8" viewable)
- Toshiba MPACT2 3D/DVD Media Accelerator w/8MB RDRAM
- Internal 100MB Zip Drive with one cartridge
- 56K V.90 PCI Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- *New* 3rd-Generation 4.8X DVD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64V Wavetable 3D Sound
- Altec-Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS Mouse
- MS Windows 98
- Value Multimedia Software Bundle
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- Year 2000 Compliant
- *Upgrade to 17" Monitor w/NEC CromaClear CRT for $79*

QP6/350 M-3x(with Pentium II processor).....$1449
QP6/450 M-3x(with Pentium II processor).....$1799

QP6/450 Best Buy $1999

Business lease: $70/Mo. **Order Code #pcc0208**

- Pentium® II Processor 450MHz
- 128MB PC100 SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 13GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 19" Monitor w/OSD (18.1" viewable), 1600x1200, .26dp
- Intel740™ 3D 2X AGP Graphics with 8MB SDRAM
- 56K V.90 PCI Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- *New* 3rd-Generation 4.8X DVD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64V Wavetable 3D Sound
- Altec-Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS Mouse
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- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- Year 2000 Compliant
- *Optional Internal Zip Drive w/one cartridge, add $79*
- *Optional Altec Lansing ACS-251 Subwoofer, add $39*

QP6/400 Best Buy(with Pentium II processor).....$1849

POWER MULTIMEDIA

SOFTWARE: MS Office 97 Small Business Edition v2.0 • MS Money '97 (pre-loaded only) • Office Mate • Day Planner Pro • Power Business Plans • Form Designer • Project Manager Pro • Labels Unlimited • Compton's Reference Collection • Dr. Solomons Find-Virus (pre-loaded only) • MS Internet Explorer 4.0

QP6/350 SM-1x $1399

Business lease: $49/Mo. **Order Code #pcc0220**

- Pentium® II Processor 350MHz
- 64MB PC100 SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 8.4GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 17" Digital Monitor w/OSD (15.8" viewable)
- Intel740™ 3D 2X AGP Graphics with 8MB SDRAM
- 56K V.90 PCI Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- 32X Max Variable Speed CD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64V Wavetable 3D Sound
- Altec-Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- MS Natural Keyboard Elite with MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows 98
- Power Multimedia Software Bundle
- Microsoft Office 97 SBE v2.0
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- Year 2000 Compliant
- *Upgrade to 10.2GB Ultra-ATA Hard Drive, add $49*
- *Upgrade to 3rd-Gen. 4.8X DVD-ROM Drive, add $79*
- *Upgrade to Altec Lansing ACS-45.1 PowerCube Speakers with Subwoofer, add $49*
- *Optional Internal Zip Drive w/one cartridge, add $79*

QP6/400 SM-2x $1799

Business lease: $63/Mo. **Order Code #pcc0221**

- Pentium® II Processor 400MHz
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- 17" Digital Monitor w/OSD (15.8" viewable)
- *New* 3Dfx 128-bit Voodoo Banshee 3D AGP Video w/16MB Based on award-Winning Voodoo2 3D Technology
- 56K V.90 PCI Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- *New* 3rd-Generation 4.8X DVD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64V Wavetable 3D Sound
- Altec-Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- MS Natural Keyboard Elite with MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows 98 / Power Multimedia Software Bundle
- Microsoft Office 97 SBE v2.0
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- Year 2000 Compliant
- *Upgrade to Altec Lansing ACS-45.1 PowerCube Speakers with Subwoofer, add $49*
- *Optional Internal Zip Drive w/one cartridge, add $79*

QP6/350 SM-2x(with Pentium II processor).....$1649

QP6/400 SM-3x $1999

Business lease: $70/Mo. **Order Code #pcc0222**

- Pentium® II Processor 400MHz
- 128MB PC100 SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 13GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 19" Monitor w/OSD (18.1" viewable), 1600x1200, .26dp
- *New* 3Dfx 128-bit Voodoo Banshee 3D AGP Video w/16MB Based on award-Winning Voodoo2 3D Technology
- 56K V.90 PCI Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- *New* 3rd-Generation 4.8X DVD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64V Wavetable 3D Sound
- Altec-Lansing ACS-45.1 PowerCube Speakers w/subwoofer
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- MS Natural Keyboard Elite with MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows 98 / Power Multimedia Software Bundle
- Microsoft Office 97 SBE v2.0
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- Year 2000 Compliant
- *Upgrade to Ultra-Fast #9 Revolution IV 128-bit 3D AGP Video w/32MB, add $49*
- *Optional Internal Zip Drive w/one cartridge, add $79*

QP6/450 SM-3x(with Pentium II processor).....$2199

QP6/450 SM-4x $2399

Business lease: $84/Mo. **Order Code #pcc0223**

- Pentium® II Processor 450MHz
- 128MB PC100 SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- *New* 17.2GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- *New* 19" Monitor w/NEC CromaClear CRT (18.1" viewable), 1600x1200, .25dp
- *New* 3Dfx 128-bit Voodoo Banshee 3D AGP Video w/16MB Based on award-Winning Voodoo2 3D Technology
- Internal 100MB Zip Drive with one cartridge
- 56K V.90 PCI Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- *New* 3rd-Generation 4.8X DVD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64V Wavetable 3D Sound
- *New* Altec-Lansing ADA-305 Dolby Pro Logic Surround Sound Speakers with subwoofer
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- MS Natural Keyboard Elite with MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows 98 / Power Multimedia Software Bundle
- Microsoft Office 97 SBE v2.0
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- Year 2000 Compliant
- *Upgrade to Ultra-Fast #9 Revolution IV 128-bit 3D AGP Video w/32MB, add $49*

SUPER MULTIMEDIA

QP6/450 M-4x SE $2199

Business lease: $77/Mo. **Order Code #pcc0209**

- Pentium® II Processor 450MHz
- 128MB PC100 SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- *New* 17.2GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- *New* 19" Monitor w/NEC CromaClear CRT (18.1" viewable), 1600x1200, .25dp
- Intel740™ 3D 2X AGP Graphics with 8MB SDRAM
- Internal 100MB Zip Drive with one cartridge
- 56K V.90 PCI Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- *New* 3rd-Generation 4.8X DVD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64V Wavetable 3D Sound
- Altec-Lansing ACS-90 Speakers
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS Mouse
- MS Windows 98
- Value Multimedia Software Bundle
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- Year 2000 Compliant
- *Optional Altec Lansing ACS-251 Subwoofer, add $39*

QP6/400 M-4xSE(with Pentium II processor).....$1999

QP6/450 SM-4x SE $2899

Business lease: $101/Mo. **Order Code #pcc0224**

- Pentium® II Processor 450MHz
- 256MB PC100 SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- *New* 17.2GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 21" Monitor w/OSD (20.0" viewable), 1600x1200
- *New* 3Dfx 128-bit Voodoo Banshee 3D AGP Video w/16MB Based on award-Winning Voodoo2 3D Technology
- Internal 100MB Zip Drive with one cartridge
- 56K V.90 PCI Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- *New* 3rd-Generation 4.8X DVD-ROM Drive
- SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64V Wavetable 3D Sound
- *New* Altec-Lansing ADA-305 Dolby Pro Logic Surround Sound Speakers with subwoofer
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- MS Natural Keyboard Elite with MS IntelliMouse
- MS Windows 98 / Power Multimedia Software Bundle
- Microsoft Office 97 SBE v2.0
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- Year 2000 Compliant
- *Upgrade to Ultra-Fast #9 Revolution IV 128-bit 3D AGP Video w/32MB, add $49*

ULTIMATE GAMING PCS

QP6/400 GX-1c $1499

Business lease: $52/Mo. **Order Code #pcc0240**

- *New* Intel® Celeron™ Processor 400MHz
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- 3Dfx Voodoo2 based 3D Game Accelerator w/12MB
- MS SideWinder Precision Pro Joystick
- Altec-Lansing ACS-45.1 PowerCube Speakers w/subwoofer
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS Mouse
- MS Windows 98 / Value Multimedia Software Bundle
- *Activision Game Titles:* Battlezone, Heavy Gear Interstate 76 w/Nitro Pack
- 3-year limited warranty with 1-year On-Site Service**
- Year 2000 Compliant
- *Upgrade to 17" Monitor w/NEC CromaClear CRT for $79*

QP6/450 GX-2 $2399

Business lease: $84/Mo. **Order Code #pcc0242**

- Pentium® II Processor 450MHz
- 128MB PC100 SDRAM Memory / 512KB Secondary Cache
- 13GB Ultra ATA HD / 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- 19" Monitor w/OSD (18.1" viewable), 1600x1200, .26dp
- Intel740™ 3D 2X AGP Graphics with 8MB SDRAM
- Internal 100MB Zip Drive with one cartridge
- 56K V.90 PCI Fax/Modem* w/Voice Mail and Speakerphone
- *New* 3rd-Generation 4.8X DVD-ROM Drive
- Aureal "A3D" 3D Positional PCI Sound
- *New* Dual 3Dfx Voodoo2 SLI 3D Game Accelerator w/24MB (2X more powerful than single Voodoo2 accelerator)
- MS SideWinder Precision Pro Joystick
- *New* Altec-Lansing ADA-305 Dolby Pro Logic Surround Sound Speakers & subwoofer
- Quantex ATX Mid Tower Case
- 104-Key Keyboard with MS Mouse
- MS Windows 98 / Value Multimedia Software Bundle
- *Activision Game Titles:* Battlezone, Heavy Gear Interstate 76 w/Nitro Pack
- Year 2000 Compliant

intel inside pentium® II PROCESSOR

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DMSE9AD2

YOU MARRY THE BOSS' DAUGHTER...

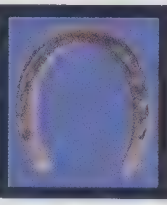
AND HAVE A FEW KIDS.

YOU INVENT THE "BOGEY-PROOF" GOLF BALL.

THE KIDS MOVE OUT.

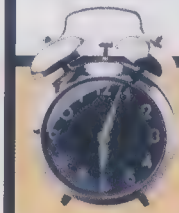
YOU RETIRE WEALTHY.

YOU BECOME INTERGALACTIC HORSESHOE CHAMPION.



THE KIDS MOVE BACK IN. WITH THEIR KIDS.

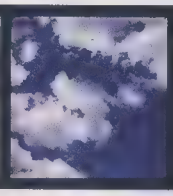
YOUR TIME IS UP.



YOU COME BACK AS A MUSHROOM.

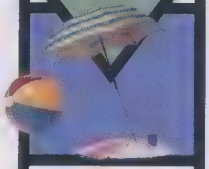
AND END UP IN A SALAD.

YOU PROMISE TO BE BETTER NEXT TIME.



YOU COME BACK AS SANTA.

YOU GIVE THE ELVES A YEAR OFF WITH PAY.



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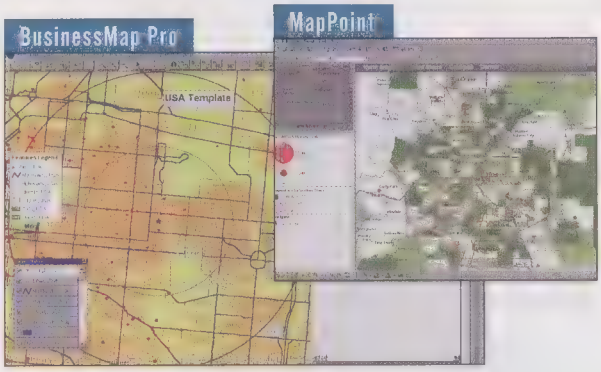
Infolink 330 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Map Out Your Profits

Plotting your sales geographically doesn't have to take an entire weekend. By Dave Johnson

Put away that résumé. Just because your boss asks you to correlate sales figures for each city with your targeted demographics and display it all on a map, there's no need to despair. Mapping information is easy if you have the right geographic information systems (GIS) software. Both ESRI BusinessMap Pro 2.0 and Microsoft MapPoint 2000 simplify the process of mapping a wide range of data.



Bird's-eye View **Ring studies are just one of the powerful analysis tools in BusinessMap Pro 2.0, while MapPoint 2000 looks and acts like a street atlas.**

BusinessMap Pro 2.0

VERDICT Powerful, multilayer thematic mapping.

PROS: Tremendous selection of demographic and business data.
CONS: Interface could be easier.

$130, $499 with extensions, est. street price / ESRI / (800) 970-0033 / InfoLink No. 826

MapPoint 2000

VERDICT A lightweight but easy way to see where you stand.

PROS: Master it in minutes.
CONS: Tools aren't available to perform complex analysis.

$109 est. street price / Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400 / InfoLink No. 827

You Are Here MapPoint 2000 marries a consumer mapping interface (like Microsoft's own Automap Streets Plus, complete with pushpin annotation) and powerful and highly accurate GIS features. Sure, you'll find map annotation tools and a simple search engine, but Microsoft has added GIS smarts via an easy-to-understand wizard. You can generate maps with a wide variety of demographic information and even insert your own sales data to create maps that overlay sales figures with population data.

Microsoft has positioned MapPoint 2000 as part of the Office 2000 family, which means you can drag and drop Access or Excel data directly into the program. MapPoint 2000 also creates mini maps that you can download to Pocket Streets—convenient if you have a handheld Windows CE device.

BusinessMap Pro 2.0 takes a different approach to business mapping. Whereas MapPoint 2000 presents a sparse interface, BusinessMap Pro is packed with dense menu options and numerous pop-up windows. That's not to say BusinessMap doesn't make an effort to be simple—wizards abound, though there's no Back button in any of them so you're forced to start over if you make a mistake.

Areas of Interest BusinessMap Pro includes comprehensive street-level maps, but its real specialty is the Ring Maps tool. This extension lets you plot demographic or other kinds of information within, for example, distances of 1, 3, and 5 miles from a site. The program also imports contact data from several sources, including Symantec Act and GoldMine.

New to BusinessMap Pro are the Market Analyzer and Business Tracker extensions. Market Analyzer provides detailed neighborhood-level demographics, while Business Tracker is an exhaustive database of some 11 million businesses. Because Business Tracker includes sales and employee data for many of these businesses, you can generate maps that include stats about the competition as well as customer demographics. Unfortunately, even though these extensions come with BusinessMap Pro you must pay extra to access them.

While Microsoft should be lauded for creating a GIS product that's as easy to use as any Office application, MapPoint 2000's features put it squarely in the lightweight class. It offers a scant 50 demographics to choose from and has limited layer capabilities. That's all many businesses will ever need, and for them it's a winner. But if you want to choose from among hundreds of census variables, create complex visual depictions of your data, and compare information from other businesses with your own numbers, BusinessMap Pro 2.0 is the one to choose.

Doomsday Database

Year 2000 Network Advisor

VERDICT A pricey one-stop site for Y2K compliance information.

PROS: Vast and easy to use.
CONS: Most information already free from manufacturer sites.

$2,795 for subscription until 2000 / Infoliant / (888) 925-5478 / InfoLink No. 828

The clock is ticking, and your network has infinite software and hardware that needs Y2K checking. Time to sign up for Infoliant Year 2000 Network Advisor, a subscription-based online database that catalogs the Y2K status of more than 20,000 products.

Search the database by company or product. Each listing tells you if a particular item is compliant; if it isn't, Network Advisor recommends a plan of action. Also included are links to company Web sites and tech-support phone numbers. There's little information about products from companies no longer in existence, though you can request that Infoliant research such omissions.

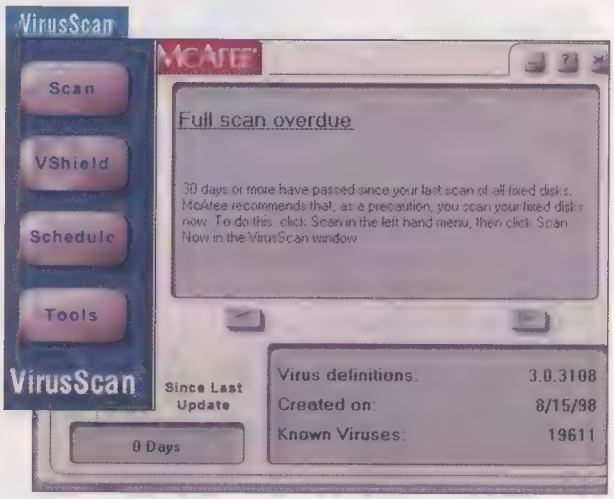
We found much of Year 2000 Network Advisor's information available for free at vendor's Web sites, which means the service is a better solution for corporate IT managers battling deadlines than small-business owners with a few products to check out. **GORDON BASS**

Double-Duty Virus Killers

Protect your PC and data from all forms of rogue code. By Dave Johnson

Do you really want to come back to the office Saturday morning to reconstruct a file that was wiped out by a virus on Friday afternoon? We didn't think so. With tens of thousands of active viruses now catalogued in antivirus labs, protecting your PC is more than just a good idea; it's a necessity. McAfee VirusScan 4.0 and Norton AntiVirus 5.0 help exterminate threats to your precious data—and preserve your peace of mind.

In most cases protecting your system is just like using dental floss: It doesn't matter which brand you use as long as you stick to a regimen. Still, there are some real differences, even between excellent packages such as VirusScan and AntiVirus.



Are You Covered? **Don't get caught with a virus. Keep abreast of virus file updates and virus settings with the new interface in McAfee VirusScan 4.0.**

Handle with Care

Despite VirusScan's friendly new interface, AntiVirus is still easier to handle than its competitor. Why? VirusScan's attractive front end is hollow: Click on one of its buttons, and you get an intimidating configuration dialog box. A wizard helps you set up the program, but it doesn't launch at startup and isn't particularly easy to find. VirusScan also has a pair of system tray icons—AntiVirus manages what is basically the same feature set with a single icon—and neither button opens the program's new interface; you must go to VirusScan's Start menu for that. AntiVirus, on the other hand, has a useful interface that's obviously been tweaked for the utmost in usability.

That's not to say that VirusScan's steeper learning curve isn't worth the effort. Both programs claim to protect your PC not just from traditional viruses but also against Java and ActiveX vandals. VirusScan is clearly more robust than AntiVirus in this arena, detecting and warning us about several Java vandals that AntiVirus didn't see in our tests. And while both programs have real-time and scheduled scanning, only VirusScan lets you customize your virus scans so that different scheduled events test different folders and drives.

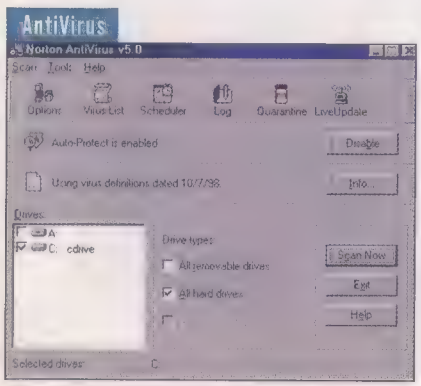
New to AntiVirus is a Quarantine folder in which you can store files that have been—or that you suspect might have been—infected with a virus. They're isolated from the rest of your PC, and you can easily e-mail files directly to Symantec for analysis from within Quarantine. VirusScan doesn't have such a clever holding pen, though the program does have Scan and Deliver, a one-step process that lets you e-mail suspect files to Network Associates.

Fresh Definitions

Both VirusScan and AntiVirus let you download monthly virus definition updates from the Net, but frustrating server performance made it difficult for us to download an 8MB program file update from McAfee. McAfee also requires you to register its product online to use the updates, while Norton gives you access to the virus definitions anonymously if you prefer. Still, McAfee can push updates directly to your desktop automatically, without any prompting on your part. That's somewhat more convenient than Norton's scheduled updates, because it means that you don't need to remember to download the latest definition files.

Even better, VirusScan offers those monthly virus definition updates for life, while AntiVirus charges you a $5 annual subscription fee after the first year. Since the easy availability of Internet updates means you no longer need to replace your antivirus engine annually, this is a point well worth considering.

Both of these programs perform very well in virus detection, making them perfectly adequate virus checkers for one or more PCs. But in this close contest, McAfee VirusScan 4.0 scores the final points for edging out Norton AntiVirus 5.0 in vandal identification.



Centralized Management **Thanks to its clever interface, Norton AntiVirus 5.0 puts the power of real-time and scheduled virus protection right at your fingertips.**

☆☆☆☆

McAfee VirusScan 4.0

VERDICT Great protection; interface still tricky.

PROS: Customizable scheduled scans; push and pull virus updates.

CONS: Could be easier to use.

$49 est. street price / Network Associates / (800) 338-8754 / InfoLink No. 836

☆☆☆☆

Norton AntiVirus 5.0

VERDICT Easy and comprehensive virus protection.

PROS: Convenient interface; quarantines suspect files.

CONS: Didn't delete all vandals.

$50 est. street price / Symantec / (800) 441-7234 / InfoLink No. 837

December 1998
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2D performance

Millennium G200 8MB AGP	135

WinBench 99 Business at 1280x1024x24bpp@75Hz

3D performance

Millennium G200 8MB AGP	368

3D WinBench ■ at 1024x768x16bpp@85Hz

The tests were performed without independent verification by Ziff-Davis. Ziff-Davis makes no representations or warranties as to the result of the tests. WinBench, 3D WinBench and WinMark are trademarks of Ziff-Davis Inc in the US and other countries. All tests performed with Windows 98 on an Intel 440BX motherboard configured with a 400Mhz Pentium II and 128MB of 100Mhz SDRAM. WinBench 99 Business run at 1280x1024x24bpp@75Hz refresh. 3D WinBench 99 run at 1024x768x16bpp triple buffered with 16bit Z at 85Hz refresh under DirectX 6.0. Matrox Millennium G200 configured with 8MB of SGRAM for the AGP bus and using driver revision 4.50.

matrox

Infolink 153 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

PREVIEW

Never Retype Again

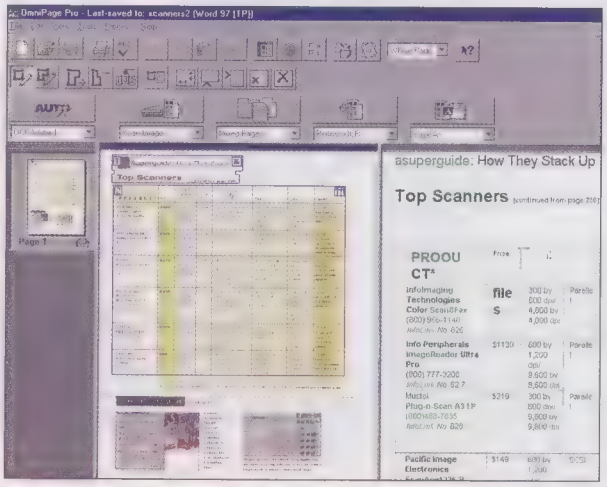
Turn any paper document into editable text with the push of a button. By Leslie Ayers

Retype a document? Are you crazy? With Caere's $499 OmniPage Pro 9.0, you can OCR an entire stack of documents in the time it takes you to push a single button.

The newest OmniPage Pro is faster and more accurate, giving you greater control than ever. It also bundles PageKeeper Standard, Caere's easy-to-use document manager. And it handles color, so you no longer have to patch together recognized text and color graphics in separate steps—using separate apps. Instead, OmniPage Pro automatically embeds your color images right in the document.

Color's great, but our favorite addition is OmniPage Pro's support for tables and its spreadsheet recognition features. When you select the Mixed Pages setting, OmniPage Pro makes short work of parsing regular text from tables—and it reproduces the grid lines almost exactly as they appear in the original table. And new toolbar buttons let you move, insert, and remove row or column dividers within a table zone, so you can fine-tune tables.

Nice Spread OmniPage Pro applies similar smarts to spreadsheets. To convert a printed spreadsheet quickly to an electronic file, you first select Spreadsheet in the OCR Wizard. That cues OmniPage Pro to look for obvious row and column divisions. Then you choose Excel (or another spreadsheet format) as your file type when the Save As dialog box appears. The whole process takes less than five minutes. Just try retyping a standard spreadsheet in the same amount of time.

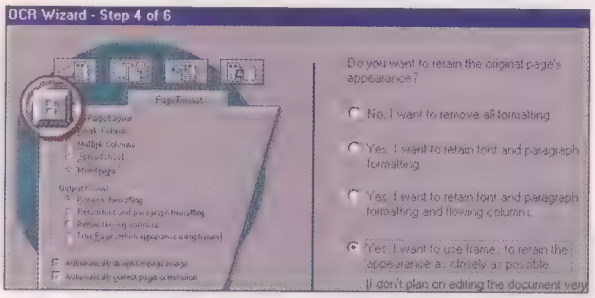


Stop Typing **Finally! OCR software that's smart enough to do the heavy lifting for you. Caere's OmniPage Pro 9.0 supports color, handles tables and spreadsheets, and even packs its own document manager.**

OmniPage Pro has long been recognized as the accuracy leader among OCR applications. But the previous version couldn't hold on to a document's formatting as well as its closest competitor, ScanSoft TextBridge Pro 98. That has changed. OmniPage Pro now maintains formatting admirably, making it easier for you to work with magazine articles, newsletters, and other documents that have complex layouts.

Here's how simple it is: In the OCR Wizard—which unlike many wizards is fast *and* intuitive—select the bottom option in Step 4. This activates True Page, Caere's frame-based approach to format retention. The only caveat is that you can't make very many changes to the resulting document because the frames don't allow text to flow between columns.

The addition of document management is a nice touch too. PageKeeper's method for creating a document index is much smarter compared with other document managers that we've seen. It sweeps and catalogs all the words in the text pages you scan. The result is an image file—which you can send to OmniPage Pro for OCR if you haven't done so already. And because PageKeeper performs a limited background OCR, you can still search any text the file contains. Indexing happens automatically, whereas other document managers require you to schedule indexing for a later time.



***Poof!* Done** **OmniPage Pro's OCR Wizard works magic on documents. A simple click on the appropriate circle tells the program to duplicate a document's original formatting.**

Zone In As in the previous version, OmniPage Pro gives you extensive control over your document with its zone tools. We only wish the irregular zone-drawing tool was slightly more intelligent: When you're done drawing your shape, for example, the two open ends should snap together automatically. And figuring out how to resize zones—you can only do it from the corners—took us longer than it should have.

Our only other complaint is that there's still no Zoom button on the toolbar (you have to go to the View menu). It would come in handy, especially in conjunction with the unparalleled new table tools. And in a perfect world you'd be able to manipulate the yellow highlighting in the resizable proofreading window (both new features) to close up single words that OmniPage Pro recognizes as separate. That's on our wish list for the next version.

☆☆☆☆☆

Caere OmniPage Pro 9.0

VERDICT The most accurate OCR app now supports color and tables.

PROS: Tops for spreadsheets and tables; stunning accuracy.

CONS: Difficult zone-drawing tools; still no Zoom button on the toolbar.

$499 est. street price ($99 upgrade from any OCR software) / Caere / (800) 736-5735 / InfoLink No. 839

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UMAX ASTRA 1220

COMPARISON	Astra 1220	HP 6200C
Optical Resolution	600x1200 dpi	600 dpi
Free Support	Lifetime	90 Days
Price	$109--$179	$399

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Infolink 369 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

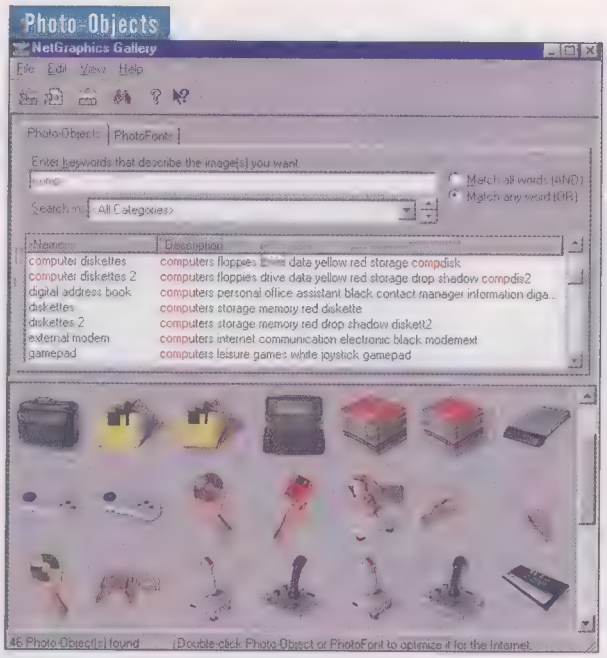
No-Wait Web Graphics

Make the images on your site load as fast as you want. By James Oliver Cury

Web graphics should look good and load quickly. It's not a question of one or the other. If you think it's tough to adjust graphic file sizes or not worth spending extra for an image optimization package, then you haven't tried Hemera Technologies' $39 NetGraphics Studio 2.0. It's an easy and flexible way to shrink graphic files and comes with its own Web-ready image and font database.

Right Size If you have all the images you'll ever need (company logos, photos, product shots, whatever) but want to make them download-friendly, you'll be working solely with the aptly titled Optimizer, an image optimizing wizard that's idiot proof. Open any graphics file (clip art, vector art, photos) and you can first set the height and width dimensions by adjusting the numerical ratio or by fiddling with the image manually (with the option to maintain the original size ratio). After conducting a brief image analysis, the software recommends either JPEG or GIF format, which you may overrule.

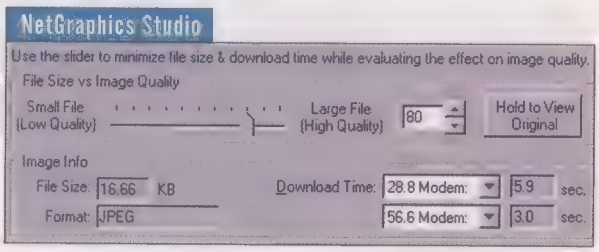
Things get more interesting when you play with the slider tool to adjust the image compression ratio, download time, and image quality. As you move this tool left you see the image quality deteriorate in one window as the file size and calculated download time shift accordingly (you set the intended target modem speed too). You cannot, however, highlight one area for more compression than another.



Look Sharp **Make your Web site look great and load quickly with NetGraphics Studio 2.0 and Photo-Objects 1.0, a collection of compact royalty-free images.**

From the Gallery But don't forget the other half of NetGraphics Studio: the Gallery. This simple clip-art and photo database boasts 2,000 royalty-free images (each with a base resolution of 600 by 600 pixels) that you can save as JPEGs or GIFs. But it's the interface that counts here. Type a keyword like *computer*, and a list of hits appears, with corresponding thumbnails below the list. Alternatively you can browse through the helpful preassigned categories.

Want to see your name or logo written with red brick, stucco, cloudy-sky letters, or another of the 50 included backgrounds? Click on a tab and go to the Gallery's PhotoFonts area. Type in any word, then choose the font, size, style, and background (yes, you may add your own). Voilà, neat customized type. But beware: This is a great way to create illegible text too.



Let's Get Small **A compression tool in NetGraphics Studio 2.0 shrinks your graphics for friendly Web distribution. Simply move the slider to find the perfect trade-off between image quality and download time.**

If 2,000 images just aren't enough for you, Hemera also offers Photo-Objects 1.0, a separate $49 image database that serves up a whopping 10,000 images using the same interface as the NetGraphics Studio Gallery. Type *camera* into the Photo-Objects query line, for example, and you get back 89 hits—considerably more than the 16 found in NetGraphics Studio. And while you can't open these objects from within the Gallery, you can drag and drop images from one application to the other.

NetGraphics Studio is an image optimizer, not a full-fledged image editor. It's designed to make your graphics small enough for fast downloads and offer up some clip art, but it won't make your Web pages look any prettier. Some other image optimizers—like Emblaze's WebCharger and Ulead Systems' SmartSavers 3.0—offer different sets of image editing features, but they don't bundle clip-art databases. If your Web graphics are making users wait—and you need some decent Web clip art—pick up a copy of NetGraphics Studio. It's the only $39 you need to spend.

☆☆☆☆

NetGraphics Studio 2.0

VERDICT A quick and easy way to shrink Web graphics—with 2,000 royalty-free images.

PROS: Better than ordinary clip art.
CONS: No color controls.

$39 est. street price / Hemera Technologies / (819) 772-8200 / InfoLink No. 840

☆☆☆

Photo-Objects 1.0

VERDICT 10,000 images in the NetGraphics Studio format.

PROS: Easily searchable database.
CONS: Doesn't seamlessly integrate with NetGraphics Studio.

$49 est. street price / Hemera Technologies / (819) 772-8200 / InfoLink No. 841

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★ *Upgrade to a NEW 12.9GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive, add $79.*

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$1999

Business Lease◊: $76/Mo., 36 Mos.

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- 17" (15.9" viewable) 1000LS Monitor
- 8MB ATI 3D AGP Graphics
- 40X Max≈ Variable CD-ROM Drive
- Yamaha XG 64V Wavetable Sound
- harman/kardon HK-195 Speakers
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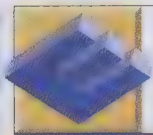

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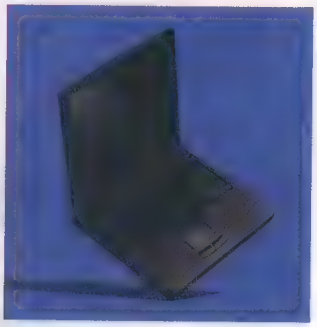

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E•VALUE CODE: 02471-890131

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- Removable Combo 24X Max^^ Variable CD-ROM and Floppy Drive
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI RAGE Pro 3D Video
- 3D Surround Sound and Hardware Wavetable
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Business Lease◊: $110/Mo., 36 Mos.

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DELL INSPIRON 7000 D300GT
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FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY

All-in-One Multimedia Performance
- 14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- 32MB SDRAM (384MB Max*)
- 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- Removable Combo 24X Max^^ Variable CD-ROM and Floppy Drive
- 2X AGP 4MB ATI RAGE Pro 3D Video
- 3D Surround Sound and Hardware Wavetable
- 12-Cell Intelligent Lithium Ion Battery
- Deluxe Nylon Case
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- Microsoft Windows 98/Touchpad
- 3-Year Limited Warranty†

★ *Upgrade to 64MB SDRAM, add $99.*

$2699

Business Lease◊: $102/Mo., 36 Mos.

E•VALUE CODE: 02471-890126

DELL INSPIRON 3500 D266GT
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FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY

Light Weight, Light Price
- 14.1" XGA Active Matrix Display
- 32MB SDRAM (256MB Max)
- 4.3GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- Modular 24X Max^^ Variable CD-ROM
- Modular Floppy Drive
- NeoMagic MediaMagic 256AV AGP Video
- 3D Surround Sound and Software Wavetable
- 9-Cell Intelligent Lithium Ion Battery
- APC SurgeArrest Notebook Pro
- MS Office 97 SBE (Call about Our *FREE* MS Office 2000 Upgrade Offer)
- Microsoft Windows 98/Touchpad
- 3-Year Limited Warranty†

$2379

Business Lease◊: $90/Mo., 36 Mos.

E•VALUE CODE: 02471-890123a

DELL INSPIRON 3500 D233XT
PENTIUM II PROCESSOR AT 233MHz
FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY

Light Weight, Light Price
- 13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
- 32MB SDRAM (256MB Max)
- 3.2GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- Modular 24X Max^^ Variable CD-ROM
- Modular Floppy Drive
- NeoMagic MediaMagic 256AV AGP Video
- 3D Surround Sound and Software Wavetable
- 9-Cell Intelligent Lithium Ion Battery
- MS Office 97 SBE (Call about Our *FREE* MS Office 2000 Upgrade Offer)
- Microsoft Windows 98/Touchpad
- 3-Year Limited Warranty†

$1999

Business Lease◊: $76/Mo., 36 Mos.

E•VALUE CODE: 02471-890119

DELL LATITUDE® CPi D300XT
PENTIUM II PROCESSOR AT 300MHz
FEATURING MMX TECHNOLOGY

Network-Optimized Notebook
- 13.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
- 96MB EDO RAM (256MB Max)
- 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- Modular 24X Max^^ Variable CD-ROM
- Modular Floppy Drive
- NeoMagic 128-bit Graphics Accelerator
- 3D Surround Sound and Software Wavetable
- Intelligent Lithium Ion Battery with ExpressCharge™ Technology
- MS Windows NT® Workstation 4.0
- Touchpad
- 3-Year Limited Warranty†
- 1-Year NBD On-site$^{\Delta}$ Service

$2999

Business Lease◊: $114/Mo., 36 Mos.

E•VALUE CODE: 02471-790129

DELL LATITUDE CP M233ST
PENTIUM PROCESSOR
WITH MMX TECHNOLOGY AT 233MHz

Network-Optimized Notebook
- 12.1" SVGA Active Matrix Display
- 32MB EDO RAM (128MB Max)
- 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- Modular 20X Max°° Variable CD-ROM
- Modular Floppy Drive
- NeoMagic 128-bit Graphics Accelerator
- 3D Surround Sound and Software Wavetable
- Intelligent Lithium Ion Battery with ExpressCharge Technology
- MS Windows NT Workstation 4.0
- Touchpad
- 3-Year Limited Warranty†
- 1-Year NBD On-site$^{\Delta}$ Service

$2199

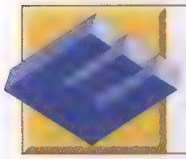
Business Lease◊: $83/Mo., 36 Mos.

E•VALUE CODE: 02471-790121

DELL NOTEBOOK AWARD INFO

- Two-time "A" rating in *PC Magazine*'s Readers' Choice Awards for Service and Reliability.
- Latitude Line – *PC Computing*'s "Best Overall" Rating Three Years.
- Inspiron 7000 D300GT – *CNET* Editors' Choice.

Advertised configurations vary from award-winning configurations.



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intel inside

pentium® II PROCESSOR

PEOPLE.

DELL® POWEREDGE® 2300 SERVER
PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR AT 350MHz
(DUAL PROCESSOR/RAID CAPABLE)

- 64MB 100MHz ECC SDRAM
- 512KB Integrated L2 ECC Cache
- 4GB Ultra-2/LVD SCSI Hard Drive (Hot-Swap Optional)
- 32X Max^ Variable SCSI CD-ROM Drive
- HP® OpenView™ NNM Special Edition
- Intel® Pro/100+ PCI Ethernet Adapter
- Integrated Ultra-2/LVD and Ultra/Narrow SCSI Controllers
- 6 Expansion Slots: 4 PCI, 2 PCI/ISA
- 4-1.6" or 6-1" Hard Drive Bays
- 3 External 5.25" Drive Bays plus Dedicated 3.5" Floppy Drive Bay
- 3-Year NBD On-site^ Service
- 7x24 Dedicated Server Hardware Technical Telephone Support

★ *Upgrade to a Pentium II Processor at 400MHz, add $300.*

$2449

Business Lease◊: $93/Mo., 36 Mos

E•VALUE CODE: 02472-290124

DELL POWEREDGE 2300 SERVER
PENTIUM II PROCESSOR AT 400MHz
(DUAL PROCESSOR/RAID CAPABLE)

- 128MB 100MHz ECC SDRAM
- 512KB Integrated L2 ECC Cache
- 9GB Ultra-2/LVD SCSI Hard Drive (Hot-Swap Optional)
- 32X Max^ Variable SCSI CD-ROM Drive
- Microsoft® Windows NT® Server 4.0 (10 Client Access Licenses)
- HP OpenView NNM Special Edition
- Intel Pro/100+ PCI Ethernet Adapter
- Integrated Ultra-2/LVD and Ultra/Narrow SCSI Controllers
- 6 Expansion Slots: 4 PCI, 2 PCI/ISA
- 4-1.6" or 6-1" Hard Drive Bays
- 3 External 5.25" Drive Bays plus Dedicated 3.5" Floppy Drive Bay
- 3-Year NBD On-site^ Service
- 7x24 Dedicated Server Hardware Technical Telephone Support

$3999

Business Lease◊: $151/Mo., 36 Mos.

E•VALUE CODE: 02472-290139

DELL POWEREDGE 2300 SERVER
PENTIUM II PROCESSOR AT 450MHz
(RAID 5 CONFIGURATION)

- 128MB 100MHz ECC SDRAM
- 512KB Integrated L2 ECC Cache
- Three 9GB Ultra-2/LVD SCSI Hot-Swap Hard Drives
- Ultra-2/LVD PowerEdge Expandable RAID Controller 2/SC
- 32X Max^ Variable SCSI CD-ROM Drive
- HP OpenView NNM Special Edition
- Intel Pro/100+ PCI Ethernet Adapter
- Integrated Ultra-2/LVD and Ultra/Narrow SCSI Controllers
- 6 Expansion Slots: 4 PCI, 2 PCI/ISA
- 6-1" Hard Drive Bays
- 3 External 5.25" Drive Bays plus Dedicated 3.5" Floppy Drive Bay
- 3-Year NBD On-site^ Service
- 7x24 Dedicated Server Hardware Technical Telephone Support

$5499

Business Lease◊: $202/Mo., 36 Mos.

E•VALUE CODE: 02472-290154

NEW DELL POWEREDGE 4300 SERVER
PENTIUM II PROCESSOR AT 450MHz
(DUAL PROCESSOR/RAID CAPABLE)

- 128MB 100MHz ECC SDRAM
- 512KB Integrated L2 ECC Cache
- 18GB Ultra-2/LVD SCSI Hard Drive (Hot-Swap Optional)
- 32X Max^ Variable SCSI CD-ROM Drive
- HP OpenView NNM Special Edition
- Intel Pro/100+ PCI Ethernet Adapter
- Integrated Ultra-2/LVD and Ultra/Narrow SCSI Controllers
- Redundant Hot-Swap Power Supplies, Cooling Fans and Processor Fans
- 6 Expansion Slots: 4 PCI, 2 PCI/ISA
- 10 Bays: 6 Drive Bays, 4 Media Bays
- 3-Year NBD On-site^ Service
- 1-Year DirectLine℠ Network Operating System Support
- 7x24 Dedicated Server Hardware Technical Telephone Support

$5999

Business Lease◊: $220/Mo., 36 Mos.

E•VALUE CODE: 02472-290159

NEW DELL POWEREDGE 4300 SERVER
DUAL PENTIUM II PROCESSORS AT 350MHz
(DUAL PROCESSOR/RAID 5 CONFIGURATION)

- 128MB 100MHz ECC SDRAM
- 512KB Integrated L2 ECC Cache
- Three 9GB Ultra-2/LVD SCSI Hot-Swap Hard Drives
- Ultra-2/LVD PowerEdge Expandable RAID Controller 2/SC
- 32X Max^ Variable SCSI CD-ROM Drive
- HP OpenView NNM Special Edition
- Intel Pro/100+ PCI Ethernet Adapter
- Integrated Ultra-2/LVD and Ultra/Narrow SCSI Controllers
- Redundant Hot-Swap Power Supplies, Cooling Fans and Processor Fans
- 6 Expansion Slots: 4 PCI, 2 PCI/ISA
- 10 Bays: 6 Drive Bays, 4 Media Bays
- 3-Year NBD On-site^ Service
- 1-Year DirectLine NOS Support
- 7x24 Dedicated Server Hardware Technical Telephone Support

$7449

Business Lease◊: $270/Mo., 36 Mos.

E•VALUE CODE: 02472-290174

DELL POWEREDGE 6300 SERVER
PENTIUM II XEON™ PROCESSOR AT 400MHz
(QUAD PROCESSOR CAPABLE)

- 128MB ECC EDO Memory
- 512KB Integrated L2 Cache/Processor
- Three 9GB Ultra-2/LVD SCSI Hot-Swap Hard Drives
- Ultra-High Performance 64-bit Ultra-2/LVD PowerEdge Expandable RAID Controller 2
- 32X Max^ Variable SCSI CD-ROM Drive
- HP OpenView NNM Special Edition
- Intel Pro/100+ PCI Ethernet Adapter
- Integrated Dual Ultra-2/LVD and Ultra/Narrow SCSI Controllers
- Redundant Hot-Swap Power Supplies, Cooling Fans and Processor Fans
- 7 Expansion Slots: 4x64-bit, 3x32-bit
- 10 Bays: 6 Drive Bays, 4 Media Bays
- 3-Year NBD On-site^ Service
- 1-Year DirectLine NOS Support
- 7x24 Dedicated Server Hardware Technical Telephone Support

$11,899

Business Lease◊: $421/Mo., 36 Mos.

E•VALUE CODE: 02472-290101

For added redundancy and increased availability, turn to the PowerEdge 4300 and 6300 servers. Call for details.

DELL SERVER AWARD INFO††

- *Network World* "World Class Award" for flexibility, serviceability and manageability – Dell PowerEdge 2300.
- *Computer Shopper* "Top 100" – Dell PowerEdge 2300.
- *PC Computing*'s "The 'A' List" – Dell PowerEdge 6300.

Advertised configurations vary from award-winning configurations.

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intel inside

pentium® II xeon™ PROCESSOR

DELL PRECISION™ WORKSTATION 610
NEW PENTIUM® II XEON™ PROCESSOR AT 450MHz
(DUAL PROCESSOR/RAID CAPABLE)

- 128MB 100MHz ECC SDRAM
- 512KB Full-Speed Integrated L2 Cache
- 9GB Ultra-2/LVD SCSI Hard Drive
- 21" (19.8" viewable, .26dp) Trinitron® 1600HS Monitor
- 3D*labs* Oxygen GMX 2000 Graphics Card
- 40X Max≈ Variable CD-ROM Drive
- Sound Blaster Pro Compatible Sound
- 3Com® 10/100 PCI NIC
- Remote Client Manageability Support via DMI 2.0; Wakeup on LAN Capable
- **MS® Windows NT® 4.0 and 1-Year NT Telephone Support**
- 3-Year NBD On-site^Δ Service
- 7x24 Dedicated Workstation Hardware Telephone and Online Technical Support

$5979

Business Lease◊: $220/Mo., 36 Mos.

E•VALUE CODE: 02473-490159

DELL PRECISION WORKSTATION 410
PENTIUM II PROCESSOR AT 400MHz
(DUAL PROCESSOR/RAID CAPABLE)

- 128MB 100MHz ECC SDRAM
- 512KB Integrated L2 Cache
- 4GB Ultra-2/LVD SCSI Hard Drive
- 17" (15.9" viewable) 1000LS Monitor
- Diamond 8MB AGP Graphics Card
- 40X Max≈ Variable CD-ROM Drive
- Sound Blaster Pro Compatible Sound
- harman/kardon HK-195 Speakers
- 3Com 10/100 PCI NIC
- Remote Client Manageability Support via DMI 2.0; Wakeup on LAN Capable
- **MS Windows NT 4.0 and 1-Year NT Telephone Support**
- 3-Year NBD On-site^Δ Service
- 7x24 Dedicated Workstation Hardware Telephone and Online Technical Support

$2999

Business Lease◊: $114/Mo., 36 Mos.

E•VALUE CODE: 02473-490129

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1 USE THIS

- MS [illegible] Telephone Support
- **3-Year NBD On-site^ Service**
- 7x24 Dedicated Workstation Hardware Telephone and Online Technical Support

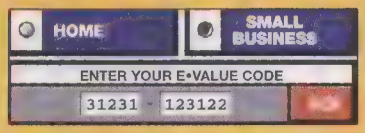
$2199

Business Lease°: $83/Mo., 36 Mos.

E•VALUE CODE: 31231-123122

2 GO TO THIS

3 ENTER THIS



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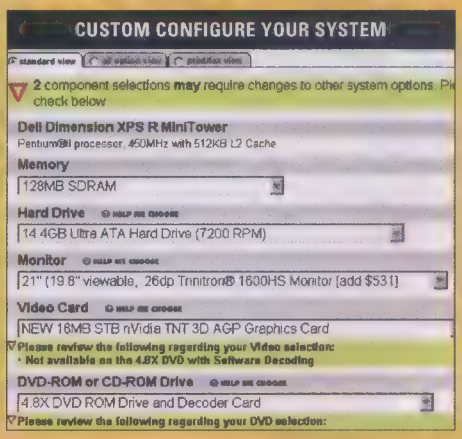

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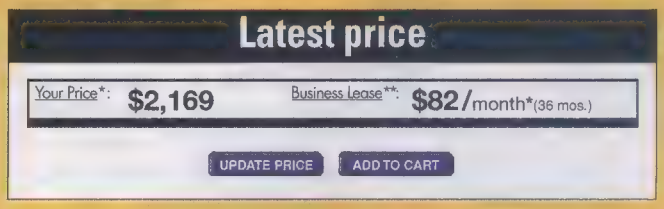

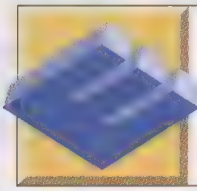

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Infolink 262 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Instant Desktop Copies

Replace your old photocopier with a digital wonder. By Kyla K. Carlson

Say goodbye to big, bulky copying machines. Photocopiers are finally making the move from analog to digital, which means better performance and reliability, and higher-quality output. They're also smaller.

The Sharp AL-1010 and Xerox XD-100 are two of the first digital copiers to hit the streets. At first glance, you'll swear these two copiers are more like twins than competing products. They look virtually identical, and both carry under-$1,000 stickers. What's more, each of these digital copiers can double as a 600-dpi laser printer.

Perfect Match **Why wait in line at the aging office copy machine? Digital copiers like the Xerox XD-100 and the Sharp AL-1010 offer better performance, terrific 600-dpi output—and take up half the space of traditional copy machines. They're also more reliable.**

The Real Thing But don't mistake these digital copiers for those jack-of-all-trades, master-of-none multifunction devices (MFDs). These are fully capable copiers, with onboard enlarge and reduce options (from 50 to 250 percent) and other standard copier controls. And unlike MFDs, these digital copiers have real flatbeds that accept odd-size documents such as maps or books—try squeezing those into the cramped, flimsy paper trays of MFDs such as the HP LaserJet 3100. The Xerox XD100 has stand-alone, 8-ppm printing capabilities out of the box. For the Sharp AL-1010, you have to fork out an additional $100 for the privilege (though an AL-1041 model comes standard with printing).

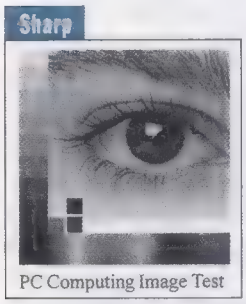
The benefits of digital copying are immediately obvious. Rather than scanning the document for every copy you make, with digital technology the copier scans your document once, then makes multiple copies (up to 99 for each unit). This means fewer moving parts (so there's less likelihood of breakdowns) and the luxury of removing your document from the copier before all your copies are complete.

The only drawback is the lack of an automatic feeder for copying multipage documents. To copy a 10-page document, you need to place each page manually and do the collation yourself. A higher-end Xerox model ($1,100) offers an integrated 30-sheet feeder, but this adds considerably to the price.

Time Trials Both devices lived up to their claims and copied pages at an impressive 10 ppm. Printing was a different story: The Xerox unit was over 21 percent faster in printing a 10-page document and nearly 28 percent faster for a 50-page document.

The Sharp AL-1010's printed text is ever so slightly bolder than the Xerox XD100's. Still, the quality for both devices was outstanding, producing sharp and easy-to-read letters. Printed photos looked good too. Quality diminishes a bit when you make copies—you'll notice a loss of detail for photographic or intricate images, and you'll see some imperfections upon close inspection of the text. Still, copy quality is far superior to what you'd get from an analog copier.

While the Sharp and Xerox devices are nearly identical in output quality, the Xerox XD100 has the edge in speed, especially for printing. The XD100 also comes ready to be a printer—for the Sharp AL-1010 it's an extra option, making the cost higher than the XD100 's. If you're looking to purchase a copier and don't already own a printer, either of these new devices makes a strong addition to your office, but the Xerox XD100 is a standout.



Look Closely **While printed quality is outstanding from both the Sharp and Xerox copiers, we found that photographic images lost some detail in reproduction.**

☆☆☆☆
Xerox XD100
VERDICT An economical all-in-one printing and copying solution for small and home offices.
PROS: Fast print speeds.
CONS: Loses photographic detail.
$749 est. street price / Xerox Corp. / (800) 832-6979 / InfoLink No. 847

☆☆☆
Sharp AL-1010
VERDICT A strong copying solution.
PROS: Quick copy speeds.
CONS: Printing capability is an extra-cost ($100) option; a bit poky for text printing; no document feeder option.
$700 ($800 as tested) est. street price / Sharp Electronics / (800) 237-4277 / InfoLink No. 848

First-Class Mail

Pay for and print your postage from the Internet.

By Wayne Kawamoto

☆☆☆☆
Stamps.com
VERDICT A convenient way to buy and print postage via the Web.
PROS: Eliminates post office trips.
CONS: You must be online while printing postage.
Free software; service rate not set / Stamps.com / www.stamps.com / (800) 877-7678 / InfoLink No. 849

Tired of standing in line at the post office? Licked enough stamps to qualify as an honorary disgruntled postal worker? Print your own postage instead. It's possible, thanks to Stamps.com (formerly known as StampMaster Internet Postage), the first of several Web-based solutions that promise to revolutionize the way small businesses purchase postage.

Unlike conventional postage systems that use hardware devices, Stamps.com performs postal transactions via the Internet. You purchase postage online by using a credit or debit card, or via electronic transfer from your bank account. Stamps.com uses your printer to output postage—which is uniquely encoded to avoid fraud—as well as names and addresses. (You'll need a scale for weighing your mail to determine postage.) The cost is subtracted automatically from your account, so you must be online while printing postage.

Stamps.com lets you select names from the Windows address book to print to standard envelopes or Avery labels. Stamps.com promises that its final version, shipping in March 1999, will be able to search and sort, import from popular databases, and integrate with Microsoft Word.

Stamps.com's software is available for free on the company's Web site, and updates for postal rate increases and the like are available online. At press time final pricing was not established, but the company estimates the service will cost a reasonable $10 a month.

Playing Post Office
Stamps.com lets you purchase postage via the Internet, and prints it onto your envelopes and labels.

Get the Whole Office Online

Bring the advantages of the Web to your workgroup.

By Christopher Lindquist

☆☆☆
Intel InBusiness Internet Station
VERDICT A simple but pricey way to get network users connected to the Net.
PROS: Supports modem sharing.
CONS: Some additional modem setup.
$399 est. street price, free upgrade / Intel Corp. / www.intel.com / (800) 538-3373 / InfoLink No. 850

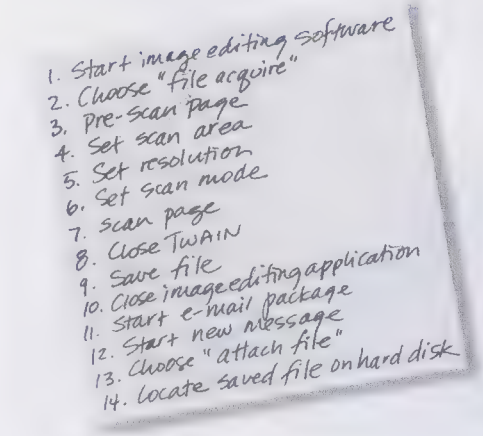
Trying to run a small business with just one Internet-connected PC makes about as much sense as trying to work in an office with a single electrical outlet. So how do you make sure everyone always has Web access without investing a lot of time and money? Intel's InBusiness Internet Station provides a simple solution, letting you quickly set up and share as many as three ISDN or analog modems over your network for both Internet access and direct modem-to-modem connections.

The Station has one serial port and two PC Card slots. Simply connect the modems, attach the unit to a network hub, and run the installation CD on your client machines. If you've already assigned IP addresses to the systems on your network, you'll need to go through a couple extra steps. Once you've installed the Station, it dials out to your ISP whenever you try to access the Internet.

Though simple and convenient, the Internet Station isn't perfect. The version we reviewed doesn't support ISDN or analog modem bonding to increase connection speeds, but a free upgrade should soon be available for download from Intel's Web site. And the $399 street price isn't cheap, especially since you supply the modems.

There are other options—modem-and-Internet-sharing software does the same job, although configuring the software isn't always easy. And many other Internet-sharing boxes don't let users access the modems for faxing or BBS work. So if you're willing to pay for convenience and you need shared Internet access fast, the InBusiness Internet Station is worth a look.

Now We're in Business
The Internet Station is an easy way to share three analog or ISDN modems over a network.



How to scan and e-mail a photo from their scanner.

How to do it from ours.

One small step for scanners. 13 fewer steps for you.

Let's face it, most scanners are not as simple as they are supposed to be.

Drag and drop, plug and play, billions of colors, and all the other terms and specs don't make a bit of difference when all you want to do is e-mail a photo, scan a page of text into your word-processor or any of the other tasks you do countless times a day.

PaperPort OneTouch offers a simpler, more elegant solution. It does most of the work for you, thanks to tight integration with our PaperPort software.

Drop in your original. Push a button. It's that easy. Hold down a button, change a few settings, and your scanner is practically a whole new machine.

Sure, we have all the specs and features you expect in a quality scanner. But we think you'll be much more impressed with those five friendly buttons up front.

PaperPort OneTouch.
All scanners should be this simple.

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Infolink 242 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

Network Security Made Simple

The ultimate, all-in-one firewall security box to protect your business. By Christopher Lindquist

Your network is connected to the Internet and you don't have a firewall? Talk about living dangerously. Whether it's a hacker prying into your valuable data, or someone on the inside wasting precious bandwidth downloading celebrity nudes, you can bet your connection isn't being treated with the respect it deserves. Configuring your own firewall can be a time-consuming, complex process. It doesn't have to be, though—Internet Devices' Fort Knox Policy Router couldn't be simpler to install and use. And it offers optional features that go well beyond a basic keep-out-the-bad-guys firewall.

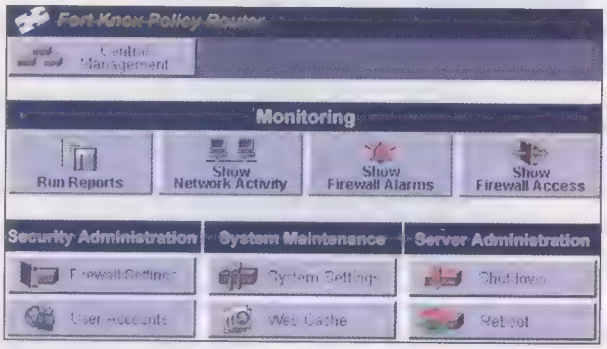
Protection in a Box **Fully configured, Internet Devices' Fort Knox Policy Router acts as a firewall, bandwidth control router, e-mail server, and virtual private networking router. And starting at just $1,995, it's not a big hit to your bottom line.**

Traffic Cop To get started you simply connect the Fort Knox box between your ISP and a hub on your network. From that point, all network traffic to or from the outside world goes through Fort Knox, with you controlling what can and can't get through.

Configuring Fort Knox is a snap. Log in from any connected client using a Web browser, and the box's Java-based tools guide you through all the steps for a basic installation. You can pick from three preset security levels (from Policy 1, where *nothing* gets in or out, to Policy 3, where anything goes) and decide whether you want to use URL blocking to keep your users from viewing certain sites on the Net. You can also force users to log in with a name and password before they get access to the Internet, giving you an extra level of security.

If the preset configurations don't work for you, simply use the tools to change whatever you need using the graphical, point-and-click interface. Fort Knox offers a variety of standard and optional features to make your network more secure and efficient. Need e-mail? Fort Knox acts as an e-mail server.

Want to set up a virtual private network? Upgrade to VPN support and Fort Knox handles that too. Install the Bandwidth Management feature and you can even control how many bits per second get allotted to everything from groups of users to types of data. (It's a great way to make sure RealAudio listeners don't slow your network to a crawl.) The configuration tools are so simple to use, it almost makes administration fun.



Click Your Way to Safety **Java applets you view in your Web browser let you quickly access and configure all the features in the Fort Knox Policy Router.**

★★★★

Fort Knox Policy Router

VERDICT Everything you need to keep snoops out of your network.

PROS: Big features, small price.

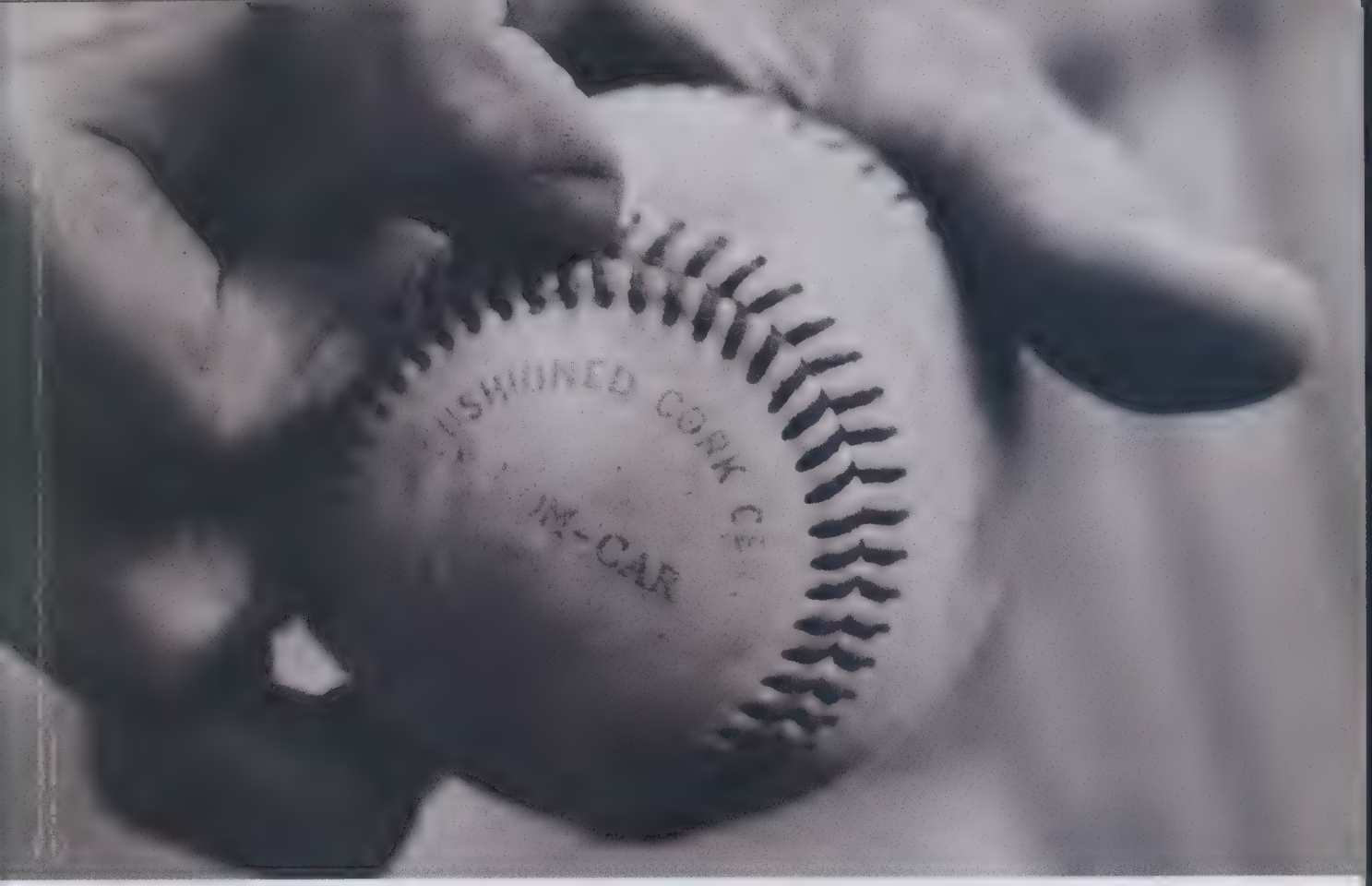
CONS: UPS option for APC devices only.

$1,995 to $9,995 est. street price depending on configuration / Internet Devices / (888) 237-2244 / InfoLink No. 856

If you're not near the network you can still visit Fort Knox. Administrators can dial in through the included modem to keep an eye on things from afar. And if you have more than one Fort Knox on a network, you can configure them all from a single location with the central management feature. The box also sports a serial port and built-in software so you can connect an uninterruptible power supply (American Power Conversion only) in case the lights go out.

All this security doesn't cost a fortune, either. The basic, firewall-only version of Fort Knox starts at $1,995. The full-power, option-packed model runs $9,995. Sure, you could duplicate all the Fort Knox features for free using Linux, but Fort Knox's ease of use will save you a bundle in administration costs in the long run. So if your network is connected but not protected, give Fort Knox some serious consideration.

Also keep an eye out for competitive products such as Internet Appliance's InternetPro Servers. Starting at $2,995, Internet Appliance's line of servers includes virtual private networking, firewall, e-mail, and Web publishing features. Sonic Systems' $495 SonicWall is a good firewall-only alternative, and Apexx Technology's $1,795 TeamInternet boasts better workgroup features.



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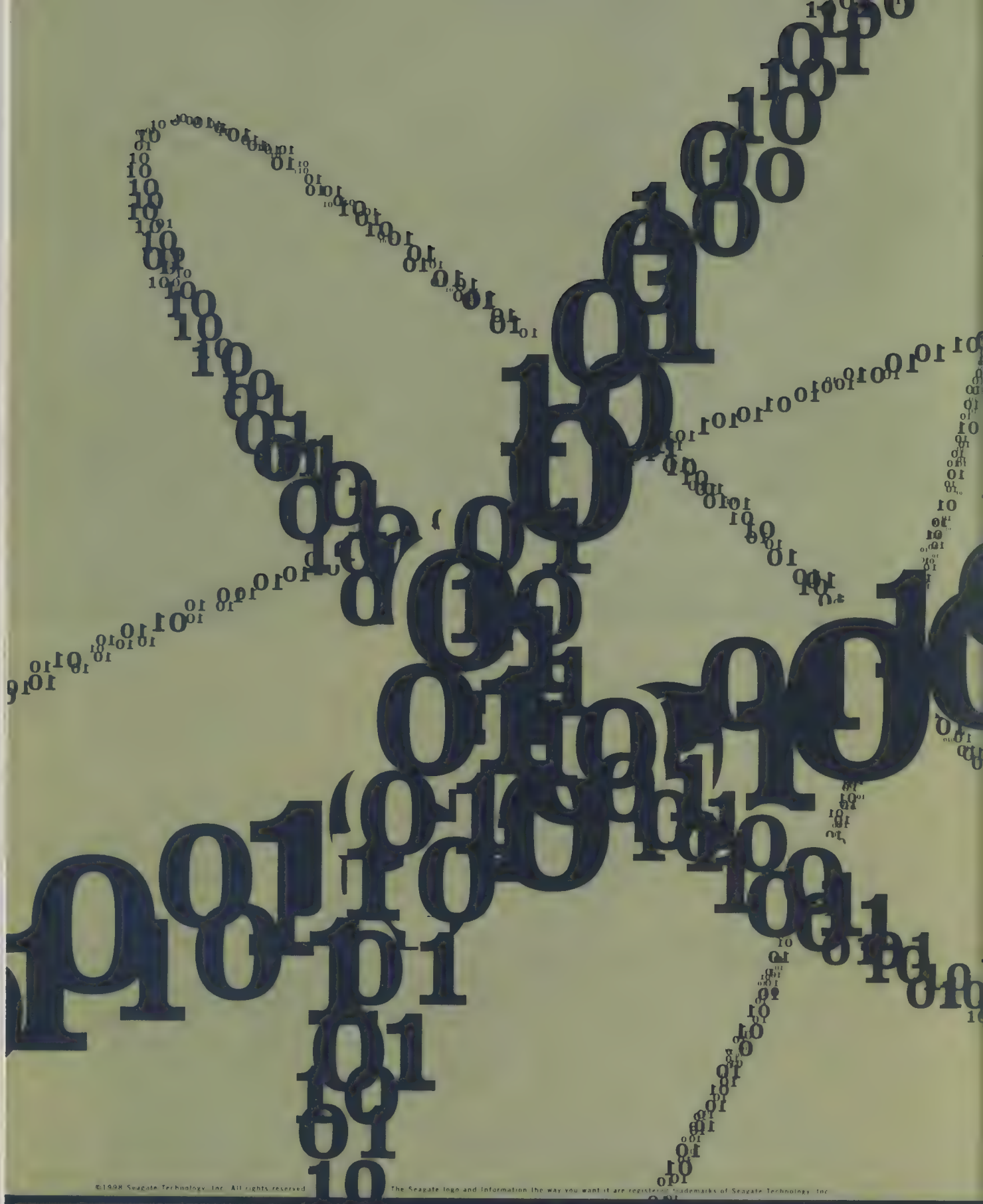

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So You Think You're Well Connected?

Stay in touch from anywhere with the latest modems, networking boxes, e-mail appliances, and videoconferencing kits. Edited by Rich Schwerin

Amquest QuadModem ☆☆☆☆☆

$899 est. street price / Amquest / (800) 237-9988 / InfoLink No. 861

In the mood for a foursome? No, we're not talking golf or tennis—we're talking modems. Amquest's new QuadModem is actually four V.90 modems on a single PCI card boasting up to 230Kbps, and it works with any ISP. Bond all four modems together for fast Net access or set up a low-cost remote access server.

MultiTech Systems MultiModem USB ☆☆☆☆

$149 est. street price / MultiTech Systems / (800) 328-9717 / InfoLink No. 862

What do you mean, you're still plugging that slowpoke modem into your serial port? Get with the program and check out MultiTech Systems' MultiModem USB. This speedy USB screamer lets you bid adieu to IRQ hassles, port conflicts, and UART bandwidth limits.

Eicon Technology Diva Mobile PC Card ☆☆☆

$399 est. street price / Eicon Technology / (800) 803-4266 / InfoLink No. 863

Sometimes you need an ISDN connection, sometimes you need a V.90 connection. Either way, you need them both on the go. No problem, thanks to Eicon Technology's Diva Mobile PC Card, an ISDN-V.90 hybrid packed into a svelte PC Card. The only catch: You have to schlepp around a bulky ISDN adapter.

ZyXel Communications Prestige 128MH ☆☆☆☆

$549 est. street price / ZyXel Communications / (800) 255-4101 / InfoLink No. 864

It's a modem. No, it's a router. No, wait, it's a hub. Actually, ZyXel's Prestige 128MH is all these things and more, sporting dual V.90 modems and a built-in four-port Ethernet hub. Choose Prestige for connecting your LAN to the Internet or bridging branch offices together.

Intel InBusiness eMail Station ☆☆☆☆

$699 est. street price / Intel Corp. / (800) 628-8686 / InfoLink No. 865

Let's keep it simple: You want e-mail access for your small-office workgroup without turning into a networking geek. Well, you're in luck: Intel keeps it simple with InBusiness eMail Station, a low-cost network appliance that easily plugs into an Ethernet hub or switch and brings e-mail to everyone on your LAN.

Polycom ViewStation MP ☆☆☆☆

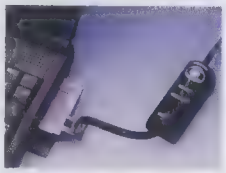
$11,999 est. street price / Polycom / (800) 765-9266 / InfoLink No. 866

Don't think of it as blowing 12 grand—think of it as saving big bucks on next year's T&E budget. Polycom's new ViewStation MP is a best-of-breed videoconferencing bundle that has everything you need for multipoint meetings, including high-quality color video, full-duplex audio, a Web server for remote presentations—even a voice-tracking camera that focuses on the speaker. Just add ISDN and kiss those cross-country flights goodbye.

Konexx ModemMinder ☆☆☆

$39 est. street price / Konexx / (800) 275-6354 / InfoLink No. 867

In yet another hotel room on yet another business trip, you plug in your modem to do some work. Suddenly, *zap!* You've fried yet another modem on the hotel's digital PBX phone line. Safeguard modems with Konexx ModemMinder, a foolproof line-current suppressor for $39.



Universal Tax Systems SecureTax.Com ☆☆☆☆

$15 est. street price / Universal Tax Systems / (706) 624-4214 / InfoLink No. 868

Still filing ink-and-paper forms with Uncle Sam? Get a grip and get online. The IRS predicts that by 2000 half of all tax returns will be filed electronically, and we're not just talking 1040EZs. SecureTax.Com is a complete tax-preparation and online-filing app that will speed your refund and make quick work of our most unpleasant civic duty.

Monorail Computer Monorail ☆☆☆

$699 est. street price / Monorail Computer / (888) 880-7245 / InfoLink No. 869

Just because you're not made of money doesn't mean you can't afford a quality PC. Monorail's $699 system includes an AMD K-6 chip, a 100MHz Super Socket 7 motherboard, a 4MB 2X AGP 3-D video card, a 32X CD-ROM, 3-D audio with speakers, a V.90 modem, and tons of software. Tack on another $300 for a 17-inch monitor, and you're in business for about a grand.

Play Trinity Globecaster ☆☆☆☆☆

$6,999 est. street price / Play / (888) 888-7529 / InfoLink No. 870

Find your own 15 minutes of TV fame with Play's Trinity Globecaster. It packs $125,000 of high-end TV studio equipment into a cool bundle that lets anyone with a PC design, create, and produce TV programming. Your next trick? Getting your local public access channel to air it.

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NORTON Utilities™

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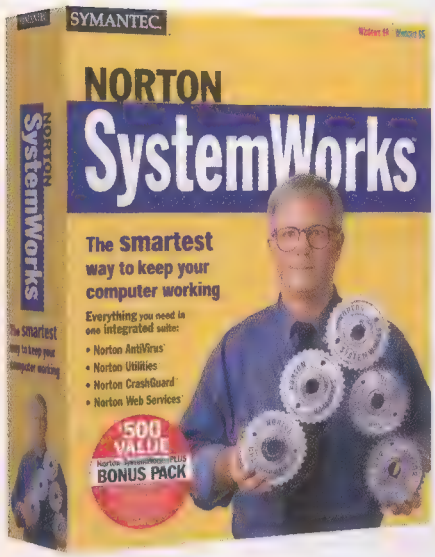
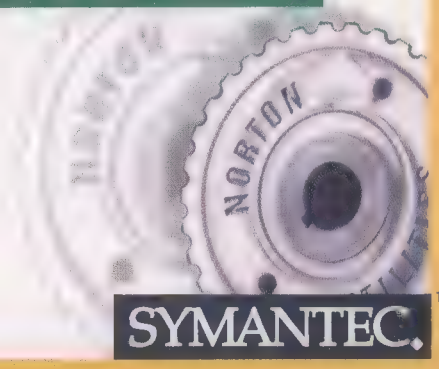


NORTON SystemWorks



SYMANTEC.™

Norton SystemWorks™: The smartest way to keep your computer working

Whether you are an experienced PC user or new to the world of computing, you need utilities. Your computer needs constant maintenance — from optimizing your system to keeping your hard drive clean. It needs protection against viruses and infections. And ways to prevent crashes, resolve conflicts and remove unneeded programs.

That's a lot of utilities. So many that they duplicate functions, sucking up system memory and precious space on your hard drive. Sometimes they even conflict with each other!

Of course, computers ought to function well these days. But since they sometimes don't, you need a single, comprehensive solution that will keep your computer working. A solution that's affordable. A solution that's easy to use.

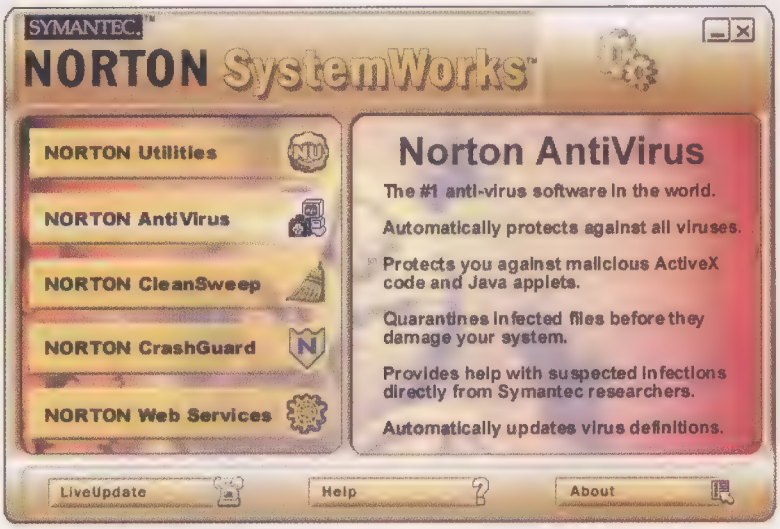
That solution is Norton SystemWorks. Because it has the very best and most current version of everything you need, Norton SystemWorks is the smartest way to keep your computer working. And Norton SystemWorks is Windows 95 and Windows 98 compatible.

What makes Norton SystemWorks the best?

Norton Utilities™ – the #1 problem-solving software for over 15 years and the industry leader in detecting, repairing and preventing major and minor computer problems. For focused power and control, it optimizes your computer to run at peak efficiency, detecting Windows problems in the background and solving them with intelligent repair capability.

Norton AntiVirus™ – the #1 anti-virus program in the U.S. and in the world, recommended by users more frequently than any other product of its kind. It updates itself automatically and works in the background to eliminate today's and tomorrow's viruses, no matter where they come from.

Norton CleanSweep™ – The most comprehensive PC hard drive cleanup software you can buy, it safely and completely removes the widest array of unneeded programs and files for maximum space savings. New Fast & Safe Cleanup removes several space-eating file types with just the click of a button, or it can be scheduled to remove files anytime you want. Norton CleanSweep also removes Internet cache and history files, "cookies," ActiveX



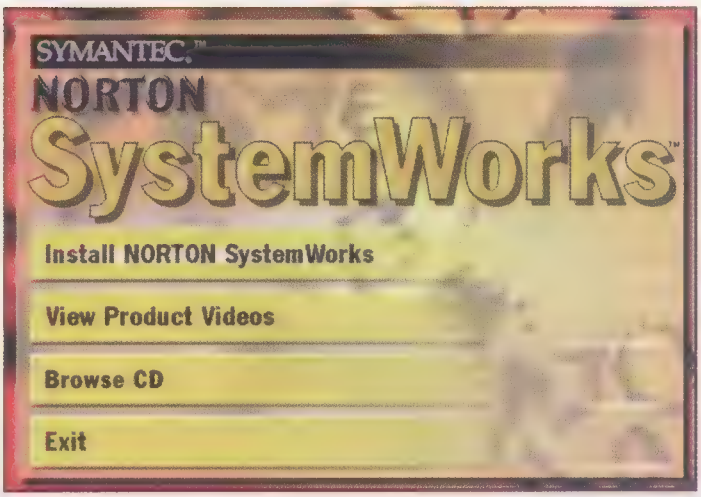
Five award-winning Norton products integrated to work as one.

To purchase Norton SystemWorks online or to locate a list of resellers visit us

controls, and browser plug-ins.

Norton CrashGuard™ – automatic protection against PC crashes and screen freezes that can ruin hours of work. Norton SystemWorks includes software that not only minimizes the chances of a crash, but in most cases lets you save your work if a crash does occur.

Norton Web Services™ – a web service that locates and helps you install any hardware drivers and software updates specific to your system. It detects the software and hardware installed on your computer, then uses the power of the Internet to check your needs against Symantec's up-to-the-minute database containing thousands of patches, drivers and application add-ons.



Easy to install with the CD Start screen.

Norton SystemWorks is integrated

Only Norton SystemWorks offers you an award-winning, best-of-breed collection of utilities — and you can click it all into action from a single, integrated Norton SystemWorks screen.

Because Norton SystemWorks is so tightly integrated, it's easy to install and easy to launch. All the utilities included in Norton SystemWorks are designed to work compatibly with each other and duplicate functionality has been eliminated. Moving from one utility to another — say, from Norton AntiVirus to Norton Utilities — is as simple as clicking a button on your screen. What's more, Norton SystemWorks features like CD Start and Launch Pad make it exceptionally easy to use.

Just one purchase buys you all the functionality you need for system problem-solving and optimization, virus protection, program removal, maintenance and crash protection.

Norton SystemWorks runs the way you want it to

Whether you want it to work automatically in the background or you want to customize it to adapt to your level of expertise, Norton SystemWorks can accommodate your needs. Norton SystemWorks can be customized for the perfect fit between you and your computer.

Norton SystemWorks is an excellent value

Norton SystemWorks also comes with a FREE Bonus Pack CD including the following stand alone products: Norton Mobile Essentials™ — to resolve laptop connection problems, Visual Page™ — a web development tool for building, deploying, and managing personal web pages, WinFax™ Basic Edition — to send and receive faxes directly from your computer, pcANYWHERE™ Express — to remotely access PCs, applications and information from your web browser.

Just one purchase buys you five award-winning products and a free Bonus Pack. A total retail package valued at $500 for one great price — $69.95*. And if you own any Norton, Symantec or competitive product (Nuts & Bolts™ 98, Nuts & Bolts™ Deluxe, VirusScan™, FirstAid™, or Uninstaller™) you can get a $10 mail-in rebate from Symantec when you purchase Norton SystemWorks. Nothing beats Norton SystemWorks. It's a convenient, one-box solution with all of the most current and effective PC utilities.

Norton SystemWorks. The smartest way to keep your computer working.

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Window Cleaners

You don't think Microsoft put all the good stuff in Windows 98, do you? If you do, I've got an underground house in Redmond I want to sell you. This is Microsoft we're talking about. They don't put a feature in a program unless not having it threatens the monopoly. Oh sure, Win98 is more stable, which means it won't crash more than once an hour. But if you want Windows 98 to be all that it could be, you need to download these utilities that make it easier, prettier, faster—and don't give you an upset stomach.

By Ron White

Microsoft's Secret Program ☆☆☆☆

Don't touch that modem! The quickest freebie for customizing Windows 98 is the Resource Kit Sample. It's hidden on the Windows 98 CD-ROM because Microsoft doesn't want to support it officially. (Translation: "You're on your own if you screw up things.") Run SETUP.EXE from \TOOLS\RESKIT\SETUP to install Power Toys—also known as Tweak UI—which lets you get rid of many Windows 98 irritations, such as the shortcut arrows on icons.

RESOURCE KIT SAMPLE

Son of Tweak UI ☆☆☆☆☆

Even if you've discovered the Tweak UI stash of goodies, there's more. Tweak UI for Power Users is $10 shareware that does everything. It makes 100 changes to Windows 98, all without precariously mucking around in the Registry. Create your own right-click menus, or manage applications that launch at startup—even those that are hidden in the Registry. If you want to be master of Windows 98, this is your best ally.

TWEAK UI FOR POWER USERS

Tweak's Big Brother ☆☆☆☆☆

OK, you know all those other Tweakie programs I just told you about? Well, forget 'em. Download WinBoost 98. It does almost everything the other tweaks do combined in a simple, check-the-boxes listing. Personally, I hate the way menus pop out anxiously every time the pointer moves anywhere near them. In sections divided neatly for the Start menu, desktop, Internet, and other areas of Windows interface, you find scores of one-click settings that make Windows and Internet Explorer look better or run faster. But what really makes WinBoost a utility to love are the pop-up tip boxes that explain why you would or wouldn't want to change each setting. Give it a try and see if you don't think it's worth $15.

WINBOOST 98

Second Cousin of Tweak UI ☆☆☆

At the risk of confusing you still more, I have to tell my pretties about one more Tweak: Tweak IE. It's the power toy for Internet Explorer 4.0, which is a standard fitting (legality pending) on Windows 98. Tweak IE lets you explore your Internet cache and cookies, recover deleted e-mail, and do other tasks that automate the Internet. The download has many features blocked in hope of intriguing you enough to pay a $15 registration. For me, I don't think so. I'm still looking for a way to change the text in IE4's links, which this doesn't do. But that's what's wonderful about shareware—you don't have to take my word for it.

TWEAK IE

Out, Damned Explorer! ☆☆☆☆

The first thing you've got to do with Windows 98 is replace the lobotomized Windows Explorer with PowerDesk. Your file-handling dexterity will increase threefold as you easily drag and drop among multiple windows, or use the toolbar and menus to accomplish

TOP 10 DOWNLOADS

Get these graphic goodies from ZDNet Software Library and PC Computing Online at www.pccomputing.com/getnow.

1. **Paint Shop Pro (32-bit) 5.01** Manipulate and view graphics files.
2. **Hyper MPEG Player 0.1** Play all the MPEG video files your heart desires.
3. **CompuPic (32-bit) 4.0 build 950** Manage multimedia files.
4. **IrfanView32 2.95** Use a fast 32-bit image viewer and keep your graphics in check.
5. **Quick View Plus 4.5.0** View files in Windows 95 and Windows 98.
6. **Cool 3D 2.0** Animate high-quality 3-D text quickly and easily.
7. **ACDSee 32 2.3** View images in various formats, from TIFF and PCX to GIF, JPG, and beyond.
8. **LView Pro (32-bit) 2.0** Edit and enhance images and do quick cropping.
9. **PrintKey 4.0** Do old-fashioned print-screens and other graphics tricks.
10. **Photo Assistant 1.0** Edit images with ease in popular applications.

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ANSWER

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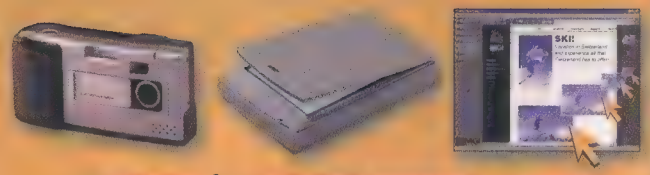

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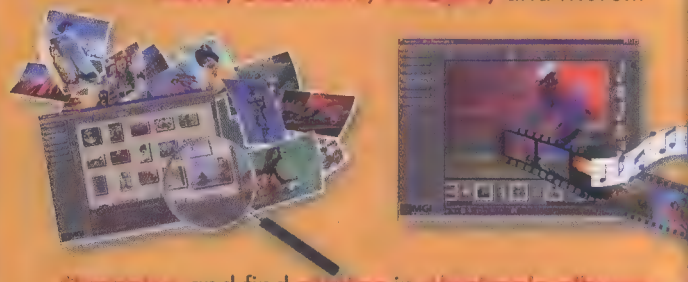

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Best seller statement based on worldwide unit shipments, 1996-1997, Dataquest Inc. report on Consumer Photo Editing, June 16, 1998.

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And now for something **completely different...**

Memo to Bill
☆☆☆☆

Loosen up those purse strings and buy your programmers big-screen monitors. Then maybe they'll realize how sinfully Windows neglects those of us with big monitors who want to get our money's worth. Windows 98 still uses the same small dialog boxes that were fine when we all ran a 640-by-480 display. Luckily there is a way to improve on Windows 98's stinginess with window space. Download File-Ex, a nifty utility that expands the default File Open and File Save dialog boxes to fill as much screen space as you want to give them. You see more files without scrolling, and File-Ex adds Favorite Files and Favorite Folders, Recent Files, and Recent Folders lists directly to the file dialog boxes. You'll be begging to pay the $30 registration before the 30-day trial period expires.
FILE-EX

common tasks like file compression, renaming, or—my favorite—File Destroy. If you work a lot with files outside applications, it's worth the $40 registration.
POWERDESK

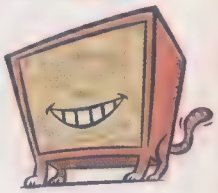
And Stay Out! ☆☆☆☆
Check out another Explorer killer—EF Commander. It provides lickety-split, versatile views of files and rare tools to compare folders and split and join files. It has a fast text viewer and a hex viewer if you just have to get snoopy. Give EF Commander a try, but do it fast; the demo version times out after only a few minutes, which is a really irritating way to get your 40 bucks.
EF COMMANDER

For Righties ☆☆☆☆☆
Take a look at Perfect Menus. Whenever you right-click in the Startup folder, you get a customized menu with a toolbar where you can place applications, files, macros, or Web sites. A few tricks you can add, such as previous and next documents and switching between two programs, are worth the $15 registration fee. It's great having a way, no matter what application I'm using, to automatically paste in my name and the other address junk that goes in e-mail, letters, and ransom notes. I love Perfect Menus as if it were one of my young. It's a must-get.
PERFECT MENUS

And the Icon You Rode In On ☆☆☆☆
Maybe what you're looking for is more than a few tweaks to the UI of Windows 98. Maybe you're the type who must spit when you say the word *Windows.* You don't want people to even know you're running Windows on your system. You need LiteStep, which has a techno-noir graphical interface that replaces the Windows Explorer shell, and all those icons that shout the fact that you're running—*spit!*—Windows. A lot of iconoclasts are developing LiteStep themes, icons, and audio players—and like LiteStep, they're all free. Don't bother downloading this unless you're willing to spend time reading the documentation and climb the learning curve.
LITESTEP

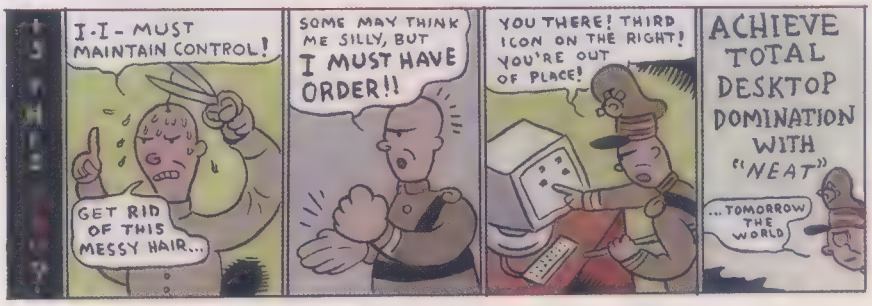
Just in Case . . .
☆☆☆☆☆
You do know, don't you, that Windows 98 is error-proof? Yeah. Good one. Unless you think Microsoft is capable of creating a crashless operating system, get the prosaically named Emergency Recovery System 98. It automatically backs up system and Registry files you'll need if Windows refuses to boot. Add your own files to it, such as application templates. If a $25 registration sounds too steep, remember that the next time your Registry undergoes some Dr. Jekyll–Mr. Hyde transformation.
EMERGENCY RECOVERY SYSTEM

See Right Through It All ☆☆☆
Little things do count. Here you've got this beautiful nebula wallpaper, and those horrid background colors beneath the text under each desktop icon don't blend with a work of wallpaper art. Get Invisibility, a free one-trick pony. It's a little strange to set up; so read the README.TXT, twice. It lets your wallpaper shine through the icon labels. With some backgrounds this'll make the labels entirely illegible. But if we wanted to control a PC using words, we'd still be working with DOS.
INVISIBILITY



ANAL-RETENTIVE DESKTOP

☆☆☆☆ **Want a different desktop look with all the comforts of home? The Neat screen covers everything in Windows 98 with a theme to which you add shelves and dividers. Then you can organize those Windows icons on neatly labeled shelves. You can switch between screens that are downloadable for free. Neat is neat to play with until you decide if your new look is worth the $20 registration.** NEAT



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID PERRY. ILLUSTRATIONS BY SCOTT MATTHEWS, ELIZABETH BRANDT, CHRIS LENSCH, AND MARC ROSENTHAL.

"Tired of

Get the speed YOU need.

If you've been holding out for the cable or telephone company to bring high-speed Internet access to your neighborhood, chances are it's been a while. Which is a shame, because if you'd chosen DirecPC, you could be surfing at up to 400 Kbps **right now**. That's up to 14 times faster than a standard 28.8 modem and almost three times faster than an ISDN line.

It's easy.

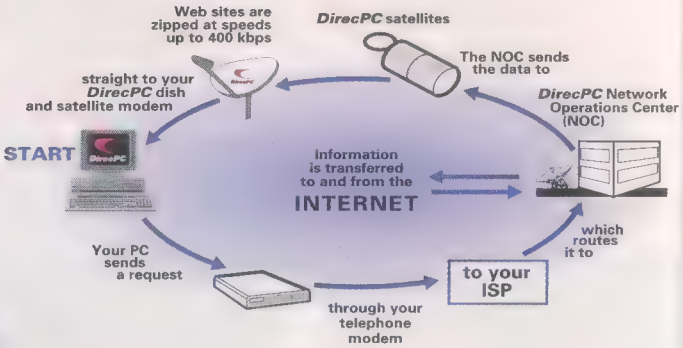
How do you get started? Just visit us at www.direcpc.com to find a retailer near you. If you can't find a store in the neighborhood, call us at 1-800-DIRECPC. We'll send you your dish, satellite modem, software and everything else you need. We can arrange professional installation for you, too. Either way, getting started is just a phone call or a mouse click away.

HARDWARE AS LOW AS

$199

How does it work?

The engineers at Hughes figured out that the real bottleneck in the speed of the Internet wasn't the request **out** to the Web — telephone modems handle that just fine. Everything slows down when the Web tries to use the telephone system to send you **back** the media-rich information you requested. So, we use a much faster satellite connection for sending you the Web content you want. Check out the diagram — this is the system that makes DirecPC the fastest Internet access available nationwide.



waiting?"

DirecPC gets pushy.

Sure, you love the idea of surfing the Web at up to 400 Kbps. But what if you could get your favorite Web sites and Usenet Newsgroups delivered straight into your PC by satellite — **automatically**, without even having to tie up your phone line to ask for them? That's just what DirecPC's Turbo WebCast™ and Turbo NewsCast™ services do — so you're never behind on the news and information that's important to you. The best thing about these two services? They're **free** with your paid subscription to any Turbo Internet™ service package.

SERVICE AS LOW AS

$19.99 MO.

The good news.

No other high-speed Internet access provider offers so much for so little. Take a close look at our service pricing — we're sure you'll find a package you like.

Want TV with that?

We know what you're thinking: "If I'm going to put a dish on my roof, I might as well sign up for one of those satellite TV services, too." We agree! That's why, for a few dollars more, you can upgrade to our DirecDuo™ dish with your DirecPC satellite modem. Add a Hughes-brand digital satellite receiver (or the receiver you already own), and you get almost 200 channels of crystal-clear satellite TV from DIRECTV® as well as Turbo Internet from DirecPC. Just call 1-800-DIRECPC or stop by www.direcpc.com to find out more.

You already know how great the Internet is — you're just looking for a way to go faster. DirecPC is the fastest Internet access available nationwide. It's affordable, and it's available everywhere. So, if you're still plugging away with an old-fashioned telephone modem, you need to ask yourself:

What are you waiting for?

Service Plan Details	Residential		Business
Name of Service Plan	Executive Surfer	Family Surfer	Office Surfer
Price of Service Plan (Including ISP)	$29.99/Month	$49.99/Month	$129.99/Month
Price of Service Plan (Without ISP)	$19.99/Month	$34.99/Month	$109.99/Month
Hours of Service (Availability)	24 Hours a Day	24 Hours a Day	24 Hours a Day
On-Line Time (Hours of usage for Turbo Internet)	25 Hours /Month	100 Hours/Month	200 Hours/Month
Additional Hourly Rate (Including ISP) Additional Hourly Rate (Without ISP)	$1.99/Hour $.99/Hour	$1.99/Hour $.99/Hour	$1.99/Hour $.99/Hour
DirecPC Services			
Turbo Webcast: Broadcast delivery of popular Websites to your PC's hard drive	Included	Included	Included
Turbo Newscast: Broadcast delivery of up to 30,000 Usenet Newsgroups to your PC's hard drive	Included	Included	Included
Turbo Internet: Fully interactive access to the Internet at speeds up to 400Kbps	Included in Online Time	Included in Online Time	Included in Online Time
Free E-mail Accounts	1	1	4
Networking (Number of Seats)	N/A	N/A	4

1(800)DIRECPC

WWW.DIRECPC.COM

DirecPC™

$199 hardware price after DirecPC rebate. New Credit card customers only. Expires 3/31/99. $100 rebate posted to credit card upon service activation. 12-month commitment to service required. $100 cancellation fee charged to credit card if service canceled within 12 months. Cannot be combined with other DirecPC promotions. Executive Surfer and Family Surfer packages for single-user systems only and subject to Fair Access Policy and Subscriber Agreement. Speeds may vary. Not available in Alaska or Hawaii; requires line of sight to the southern sky.

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HUGHES NETWORK SYSTEMS

TOP 100 FREE

DOWNLOADS

It's out there. No matter what you want to do on your PC, you'll find plenty of free software on the Web to get it done. But how do you get to the good stuff? With our exclusive guide to the top 100 downloads.

They're all free: shareware to try out, freeware that's yours for the taking, and demo or limited versions that let you test-drive commercial apps. You'll find them all at www.pccomputing.com/getnow.

Free stuff is great, but can you really trust it to run your business? Check out the results of *PC Computing*'s Business Labs face-off. We pitted the top freebies against the best-sellers (see page 174).

PROBLEM

Sure, there's tons of free software out there. But how do you find the good stuff?

SOLUTION

Our editors pick the best—in every major category.

TOP 10 ZDNET DOWNLOADS OF ALL TIME

1. WINZIP PAGE 162
2. MICROSOFT POWERTOYS PAGE [illegible]
3. PAINT SHOP PRO PAGE [illegible]
4. WEBFERRET PAGE [illegible]
5. CD-QUICK CACHE PAGE [illegible]
6. ATOMTIME98 PAGE [illegible]
7. ICQ PAGE [illegible]
8. FREE SOLITAIRE PAGE [illegible]
9. NORTON ANTIVIRUS PAGE [illegible]
10. DUKE NUKEM 3D PAGE [illegible]

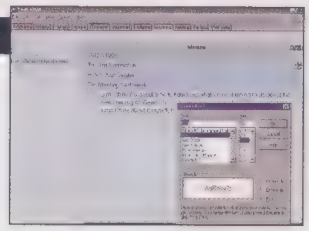
BY PRESTON GRALLA

ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHRIS ENSCH

DESKTOP APPS

You don't need to shell out big bucks for top-shelf software. Go with the Web's free alternatives: word processors, spreadsheets, schedulers, money managers, even OCR software. Not convinced you can run your business with shareware apps? Check out the results of our face-off, page 174.

WORD PROCESSOR



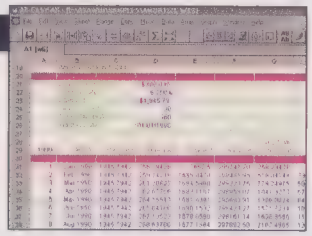
Yeah Write, Word Place

Surprise: Microsoft Word isn't the only game in town. This compact word processor offers a new way of working with text: tabbed screens. These make the interface look like a loose-leaf notebook. It takes a bit of getting used to, as we found in our tests, but Yeah Write is a fine choice for basic tasks.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

Eric Fookes NoteTab Pro It's more a text editor on steroids than a word processor, but you'll love advanced features like Clipbook, which lets you save and insert boilerplate text.

SPREADSHEET



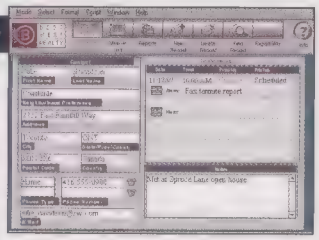
As-Easy-As, Trius

Microsoft Excel is a disk hog. Here's a better way—but you'll have to work harder to use it. This trim spreadsheet gives you all the advanced functions you'd expect—130 of them, including math, financial, scientific, and statistical tools, plus great charting and a macro language.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

Macro Systems Spreadsheet Assistant Hooked on Excel? You need this add-on, which automates tasks by adding toolbars, menu commands, and pop-up menus to the popular spreadsheet.

DATABASE



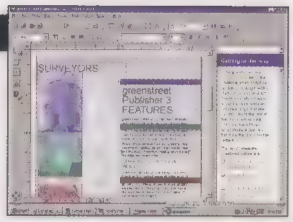
FileMaker Pro Trial, FileMaker

Why buy what you don't need? For small databases, go with the freebie version of this excellent relational database, which includes templates for business, school, and home. Publish your database to local networks or the Web.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

NextWord InfoTree32 No programming required with this free-form database.

DESKTOP PUBLISHER



Greenstreet Publisher 3 Lite, GST

A graphics program that's strong on desktop publishing, Greenstreet Publisher 3 Lite lets you easily create logos, slides, posters, cards, certificates, and more. Its wizard-like Pilots guide you through the design process from start to finish.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

BNW Systems imPression Lite Desktop publishing and vector graphics creation in a single package.

GRAPHICS PROGRAM

Paint Shop Pro, JASC Software

Paint, edit, and retouch your images with this powerhouse graphics program that won't

WOODY LEONHARD

OFFICE SURVIVAL KIT

If you swear at Microsoft Office—and I know you do, because I swear at it too—then it's time to can the cusswords and follow this four-point plan at www.pccomputing.com/getnow.

Office 97 Service Release 2 First, upgrade to this indispensable patch, which fixes several bugs in the original release.

TSS OfficeLock Now it's time to beef up Word's and Excel's password protection. You need this program, which directly integrates with the entire Office suite.

Microsoft Clip Gallery Next, add to your Office clip art collection. Check this site often—Microsoft offers free updates every month.

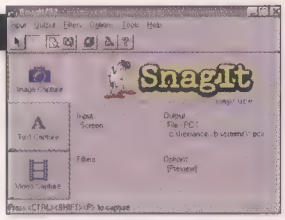
Woody's Office Watch To stay up to date on everything related to Microsoft Office, subscribe to my free weekly e-mail newsletter by sending a blank message to www@wopr.com.

devour all your hard disk space. With special-effects filters, the ability to edit and create in image layers, multilevel undo features, and a variety of special brushes and tools, Paint Shop Pro covers all the bases. It even creates animated GIFs for Web pages.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

Cerious Software ThumbsPlus The perfect way to manage and organize all the image files on your hard disk. You also get basic graphics tools, such as image conversion and cropping.

IMAGE CAPTURE



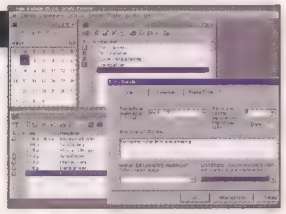
SnagIt/32, TechSmith

The ultimate capture program lets you save to any format imaginable—or send the shot straight to your printer. Grab an entire screen, individual window, or defined area. Extras like image scaling and color conversion ensure you get perfect images every time.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

Inbit FullShot 99 Capture screens, view image files, even do basic editing with this versatile program.

INFORMATION MANAGER



Time and Chaos,

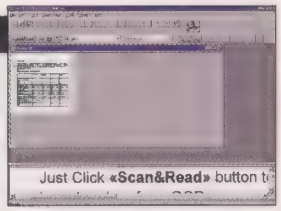
Isbister

Take control of your life with this handy information manager, which lets you track appointments, schedules, and contacts. Set alarms to remind you of upcoming events; even have it address your envelopes.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

CAM Development My Personal Diary As you'd guess from its name, this is no ordinary information manager. But it's perfect for keeping an electronic journal of business or personal events.

OCR SOFTWARE



Presto OCR Pro,

NewSoft

Here's the ideal companion for your new scanner. Presto OCR Pro scans text directly into applications, including Microsoft Word and Excel, Lotus WordPro, and Corel WordPerfect. It automatically recognizes tables, and you can also compare recognized text with the original document to catch any mistakes.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

ABBYY FineReader Professional Here's a streamlined program that makes short work of scanning. FineReader Professional includes a spell-checker, graphics tools, and the ability to read text directly into applications.

TOP UTILITY

Nico Mak WinZip If you download software, you need this program. And that's why WinZip is the most popular download of all time from the ZDNet Software Library. WinZip does a great job of zipping and unzipping files, and it lets you test out programs and then uninstalls them for you. Even if you never download a file, you need WinZip—it's a great way to archive old files and reclaim disk space.

SMALL-BUSINESS TOOL

Business Card Designer Plus,

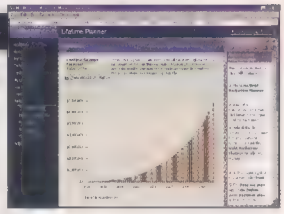
CAM Development

Make a great impression with professional-looking business cards that cost mere pocket change. Choose from a slick or spare template, or design your own from scratch. Scale and rotate images, add shadows and boxes, and manipulate text.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

Versatile Software Solutions Business Plan Master Put together the perfect business plan with ease thanks to these templates designed for Excel, Word, and other popular programs.

MONEY MANAGER



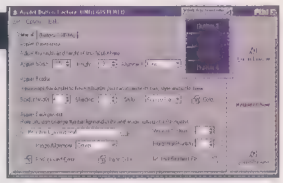
Money 99, Microsoft

A free trial that you'll happily upgrade—and one that will pay for itself in no time. Money lets you bank electronically, manage your finances, save for retirement or your kid's education, track investments, and more.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

Silicon Programming Cash Express for Windows A solid, no-frills program that helps you manage checking and savings accounts, as well as keep track of bills, loans, credit cards, and investments.

DEVELOPMENT TOOL



Software Applet Button Factory,

Silicon Joy

With this handy program you can create Java buttons for a Web site in minutes—no programming experience required. Simply fill in a template telling Applet Button Factory what you want, including the number of buttons, their size, whether you want to use image files, and what actions the buttons should take. The program does the rest.

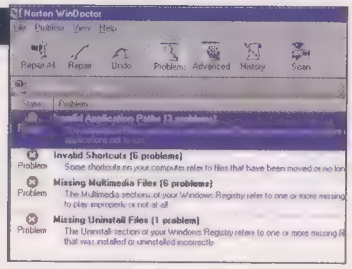
ALSO CONSIDER . . .

Microsoft ActiveX Control Pad If ActiveX is more your Web style than Java, try out this authoring tool that makes it easy to add ActiveX controls to your Web pages.

UTILITIES

Got a problem? There's a free utility on the Web that solves it, from do-it-all suites to one-trick ponies. These freebies help you keep your PC running smoothly, diagnose problems before they slow you down, detect viruses, keep snoops out of your system, and patch the holes in Windows.

UTILITY SUITE



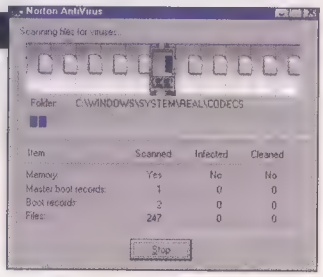
Norton Utilities for Windows 95, Symantec

Not using Norton Utilities to keep your PC in tip-top shape? Now you've got no excuse thanks to this free trial. Monitor and fine-tune system performance, stop and recover from crashes, fix hard disk problems, recover deleted files, even track changes to your Registry files.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

Mijenix PowerDesk Utilities Keep tabs on your system with this suite. It's got great file management, with more than 80 viewers and powerful compression tools.

ANTIVIRUS SOFTWARE



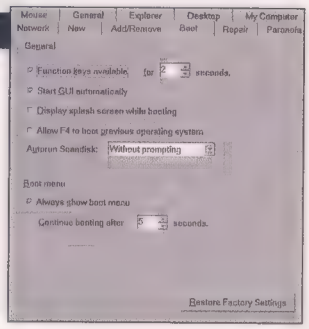
Norton AntiVirus for Windows 95/98, Symantec

The best file protection, and it's yours to try for free. AntiVirus watches for viruses in the background while you work and checks files you download from the Internet. Its Live Update feature makes sure you always have the latest protection.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

Thunderbyte Anti-Virus Stop nasty viruses in their tracks with this trusty program. Protects you from infected Internet files too.

SYSTEM UTILITY



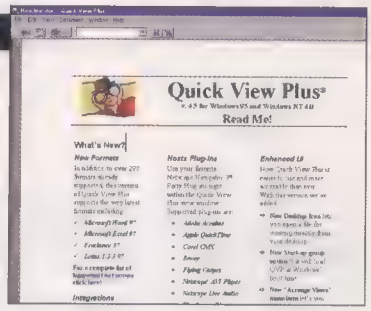
PowerToys for Win95, Microsoft

Bend Windows to your will with this advanced set of tools for customizing your operating system. For those wary of editing the Registry it's the perfect solution. PowerToys lets you switch resolutions on the fly, change menu speed, adjust mouse speed, and a whole lot more.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

Circuit Systems CD-Quick Cache for Windows 95 Speed up your hard disk and CD-ROM drive with this handy utility.

FILE UTILITY



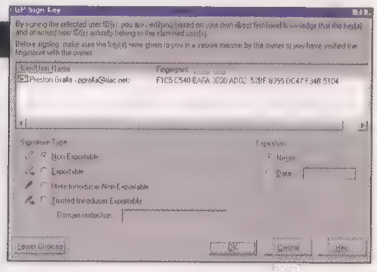
Quick View Plus, Inso Corp.

Stop guessing. Peek inside practically any file with this indispensable utility. It works seamlessly with just about any application. And it's easier than you think because Quick View Plus is just a click away.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

Contact Plus More Space for Windows 95 Reclaim valuable hard disk space with More Space for Windows 95. It sniffs out duplicate files and space-hogging files and directories.

SECURITY



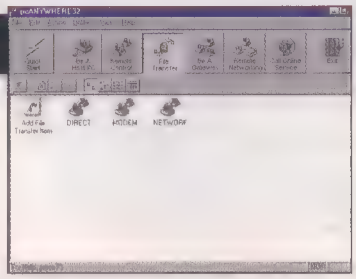
PGP for Personal Privacy, Network Associates

Keep your data away from prying eyes. PGP for Personal Privacy encrypts anything on your hard disk and links directly to your e-mail manager so you can encrypt mail easily. And its digital keys ensure that only your intended recipient can read the files and messages that you send.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

Micro System Designs WebPasskey Keep your passwords under lock and key with this PC guardian. WebPasskey also saves you time by autogenerating passwords and even filling out Web forms for you.

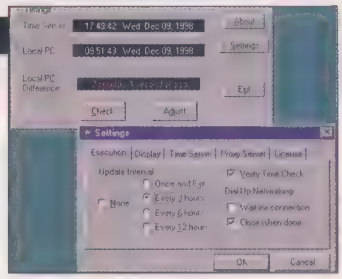
REMOTE-CONTROL SOFTWARE



pcAnywhere,
Symantec
Take control of your work or home computer from afar with this longtime favorite. Control desktop apps and transfer files just as if you were sitting in front of your PC.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .
Software Corporation of America Remotely Possible It does the job, but you'll work a little harder.

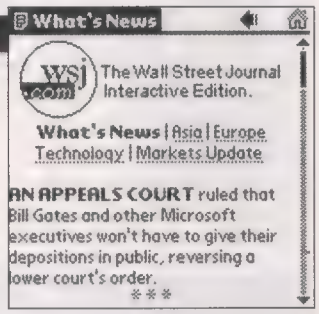
CLOCK UTILITY



AtomTime98,
Bruce Adelsman
Does anybody really know what time it is? Your PC does, down to the exact second, with AtomTime98. It uses an Internet time server to set your PC's clock accurately.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .
Marcus Monnig Worldtimes for Windows 95 Run this free little utility from your Taskbar, and you'll see the time in any of the four cities you select.

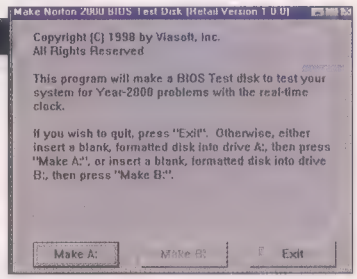
PALM PC SOFTWARE



AvantGo Client,
AvantGo
Yes, you *can* take it with you. AvantGo lets you grab information from your favorite Web sites on your desktop PC, then automatically download it to your palm-size PC via HotSync.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .
Bozidar Benc Launcher III Build a better Palm desktop—instantly. Launcher III organizes your apps into tabs, and goodies like the trash can delete unwanted files.

Y2K UTILITY



Norton 2000 BIOS Test/Fix,
Symantec
Make sure your PC is ready for the millennium with this utility. It checks your system to make sure its BIOS is Y2K compliant—up through 2015.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .
SecureNet Technologies Y2K Test (Windows) There's safety in numbers. If you want a second utility to check your PC for Y2K compliance, download this one too.

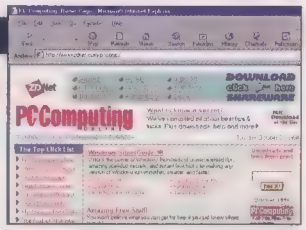
MORE DON'T-MISS WINNERS

CATEGORY	PRODUCT	TOP DOWNLOAD	ALSO CONSIDER . . .
PRINTER UTILITY	**Single Track**	Teach your printer new tricks: Print multiple pages on a single sheet, add watermarks, and more.	**MicroVision Development DesignExpress Labels** Print labels, business cards, and envelopes with ease.
SYSTEM DIAGNOSTICS AND MONITORING	**Catalin Adrian Silasi Sandra**	X-ray your PC with in-depth benchmarks and info in over 50 modules.	**BCM Advanced Research BCM Diagnostics for Win95** Test and diagnose every aspect of your PC.
WINDOWS AUTOMATION TOOL	**Insight Software Solutions Macro Express 98**	Create system shortcuts and run them from hotkeys or a button panel in your Windows system tray.	**FabSoft ShortCut** Automate Windows tasks with these scripts.
NETWORK UTILITY	**Ositis Software WinProxy**	Link multiple computers on a LAN to the Internet through a single connection.	**Keith Woodard NT Command Line Security Utilities** Administer NT machines and networks.
REGISTRY EDITOR	**Stephen Hoek Registry Search & Replace**	If you need to get down and dirty inside the Windows Registry, here's the easiest way to do it.	**Imaginations Unlimited Windows 95 Registry FAQ** Tips, tricks, and essential information.
CE SOFTWARE	**Odyssey Computing Pocket On-Schedule**	Keep your life organized while you're on the go by tracking your contacts, to-do's, and deadlines.	**Microsoft PowerToys for CE** Easy-to-use add-ons for making the most of CE.

INTERNET APPS

You use the Internet every day, but to really take advantage of it you need the right insider tools. The place to get them? The Web, of course. You'll find can't-live-without search helpers, smart e-mail managers, utilities to speed surfing, spam killers, and plenty of programs for dressing up Web pages.

WEB BROWSER



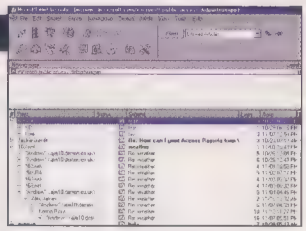
Internet Explorer 4.01, Microsoft

The Web starts here. Chances are you're already using the top-rated browser, which also happens to be free. It's fast, integrates seamlessly with Windows, and comes with excellent newsreader, conferencing, and e-mail apps.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

Netscape Communicator Yes, you do have a choice. Netscape's excellent browser does just about everything Explorer does—and finally it's free too.

NEWSREADER



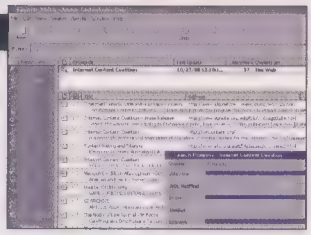
Gravity, MicroPlanet

Before there was the Web, there were newsgroups. And these public bulletin boards are still thriving on the Internet. Gravity makes it a breeze to subscribe and unsubscribe to groups, and offers background image decoding and customizable rules for organizing and prioritizing groups and messages.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

Forte Free Agent The easy way to get started with newsgroups.

INTERNET SEARCH TOOL



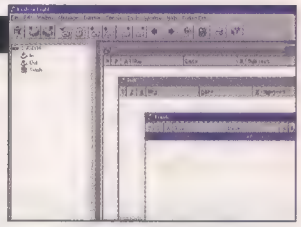
Copernic 98, Agents Technologies

Save yourself time and frustration with this indispensable search utility. It lets you search the entire Web or specific channels, including news, technology, business, and finance. It also surveys dozens of the top engines at once, then ranks the results so you can easily find what you're looking for.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

FerretSoft LLC WebFerret The Web's top search engines are just a click away. WebFerret adds an entry to your Windows Start menu so you can search without even loading your browser.

E-MAIL MANAGER



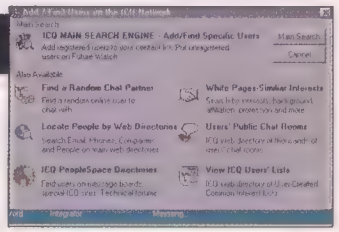
Eudora Light, Qualcomm

Who could live without e-mail? That's why you need this free version of the popular Eudora e-mail manager. It lets you sort mail by folders, automatically apply filters to incoming mail, and easily send and receive attachments. Plus it has a great address book.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

David Harris Pegasus Mail An excellent e-mail manager that'll keep your in-box in check.

INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS



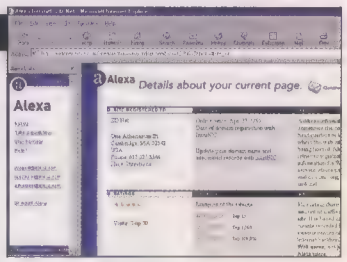
ICQ, Mirabilis

Forget e-mail. Why not chat over the Web instead? ICQ (pronounced "I seek you") is the best there is in Internet communications. Find other people who share your interests, chat, or send them e-mail–like messages. ICQ even hooks to videoconferencing apps.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

Hilgraeve DropChute+ This unique program lets you connect directly to others on the Web and transfer files to them or chat.

INTERNET UTILITY



Alexa, Alexa Internet

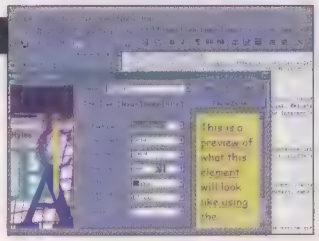
Finally! An effortless way to find great Web sites. When you're at one site, Alexa offers a list of related sites. Simply click to jump to it. You also get information about any site, such as who owns it and how fresh the content is.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

Northwest Performance NetScanTools Here are all the Internet geek tools you could wish for rolled into one. Ping sites to see if they're live, find out who owns domains, and much more.

Get it all free at www.pccomputing.com/getnow

WEB PUBLISHER



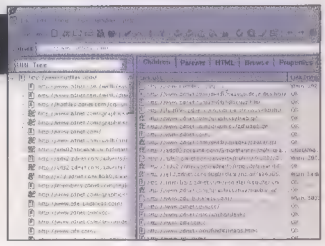
HomeSite, Allaire

The one Web publisher that pleases everyone. Professionals like it because you can type in code directly and it supports frames and tables. Beginners love the wizards and graphics.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

CoffeeCup HTML Editor++ 98 Experienced HTML coders will want to try this excellent publisher.

WEB PUBLISHING UTILITY



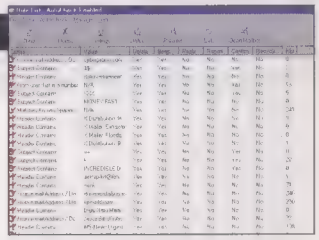
Software Linkbot, Tetranet

Broken links, missing images, and old content are the bane of any Web publisher. Linkbot solves these problem without a lot of grief.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

Ulead GIF Animator The easy way to create animated GIFs for your Web site. It even converts AVI and QuickTime files to GIF animations.

SPAM KILLER



Spam Exterminator,

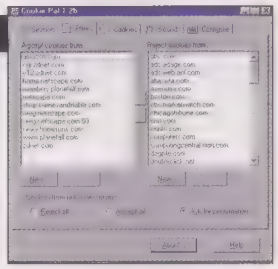
Unisyn

Delete, delete. . . . Here's a better way to nix spam from your in-box. Exterminator sniffs out unsolicited mail from over 3,000 known spammers and automatically kills messages from them.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

Contact Plus Spam Buster Another smart way to detect and purge junk mail.

COOKIE KILLER



Cookie Pal,

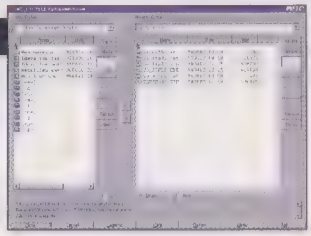
Kookaburra Software

Careful. You're being spied on. But fear not, because Cookie Pal keeps tabs on who's watching you. It cleans cookies off your system, then alerts you when a site tries to send you a new one.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

Webroot Software Cache and Cookie Washer Zap cookies, and automatically purge your Internet cache files, address bar drop-down menu, and history list.

FILE TRANSFER UTILITY



WS_FTP Professional,

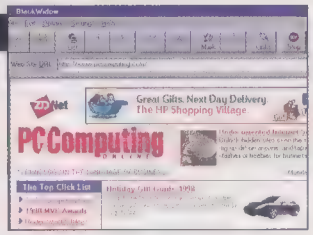
Ipswitch

Stop! Don't download a thing until you get this utility. Its Explorer-like interface makes it easy to get started, and you'll love the ability to send and receive multiple files at once as well as resume an interrupted download.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

Lincoln Beach Software Download Butler The easy way to keep track of all the goodies you download. It categorizes, unzips, and even scans for viruses.

OFFLINE UTILITY



BlackWidow,

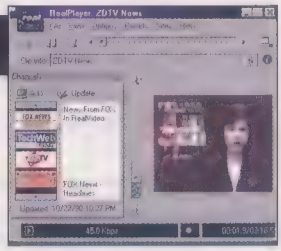
SoftByte Laboratories

Bring the Web with you—no Net connection required. Download entire Web sites, individual pages, or selected files to review later.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

askSam SurfSaver Save Web pages, then store them in searchable folders.

INTERNET MEDIA PLAYER



RealPlayer G2,

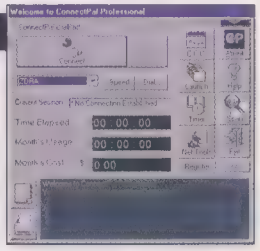
RealNetworks

There's more to the Web than text and pictures. With RealPlayer you can listen to Internet radio stations and music, watch TV and video clips, and view animations.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

Microsoft Windows Media Player The player you need to view animations on many popular sites.

DIAL-UP UTILITY



ConnectPal Professional,

connectpal.com

Take control of your Web connection. ConnectPal automatically redials busy numbers and logs you on, automatically launches programs after you've connected, and keeps your Web connection alive.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

Vector Development Dunce Do it for me: Dunce will automatically redial, log-in, and connect at your request.

GAMES AND ENTERTAINMENT

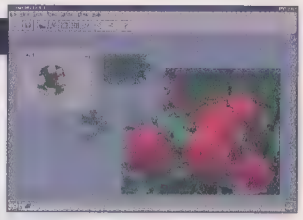
Go ahead: Zap aliens. Conquer ancient Rome. Make beautiful music. Learn to play bridge. Dress up your computer with snazzy fonts, screen savers, and custom sounds. There's more to your PC than work, and here are the best Web freebies for having fun.

CARD GAME

Free Solitaire, Michael McCulloch
The all-time favorite Windows time-waster makes a comeback. You get nine solitaire variations that you can play in any of three card designs in high- or true-color mode. Or design your own cards from any BMP, GIF, JPG, or PCX file.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .
Steven Han Easy Bridge Learn and practice bridge on your PC whenever you want.

PUZZLE GAME



Jigsaws Galore, Gray Design Associates
Here's one for big-time jigsaw fans. It features 10 photographic puzzles, and you get to decide how many pieces are in each—from 4 to 4,000. You can also turn any BMP graphic into a puzzle. When things get too tough, choose the cheat mode.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .
Matthias Schussler Clickomania Just click to remove blocks and reveal an underlying picture. It's simple to play, but tough to win.

SPORTS GAME

HardBall 6, Accolade
Sure, you're way out of shape, but that doesn't mean you can't play America's favorite pastime. This excellent baseball game is as close to the real thing as you can get, with an unlimited number of camera angles and amazingly realistic hitting, pitching, and fielding. But in this demo version of HardBall 6, you play only exhibition games at Jacobs Field in Cleveland.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .
Electronic Arts Madden NFL 99 Play a rematch of the 1998 Super Bowl with this excellent demo that boasts superrealistic fast action.

ACTION GAME

Heretic II, Activision
Slam-bam action, complete with fantasy, spells, and weapons. The sequel to the addictive Heretic uses a modified Quake II gaming engine for fast action. And its graphics are stunning.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .
3D Realms Duke Nukem 3D Blast enemy aliens in this classic shooter.

STRATEGY GAME

Starcraft, Blizzard Entertainment
If you ever plan to work again, don't download this demo of the best-selling game. It features great strategy, action,

DAN ROBBINS
ULTIMATE WEBMASTER'S TOOLKIT

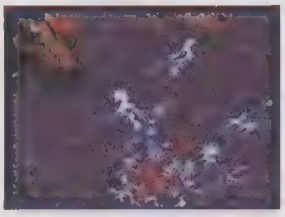
As a Webmaster, I already have all the essentials: an FTP client, a decompression utility, an HTML editor, and some graphics applications. What else could I possibly need to publish exciting content on the Web? The answer is simple: a stimulating work environment. The ultimate tools of the top Webmasters give us the ability to step away from what we do all day and have fun while creating.

Quinnware Quintessential CD Music, music, and music are the three best ways to liven up your day in front of the monitor and get those creative juices flowing. Quintessential CD is easy to use, looks cool, and has full CDDB support.

Pumpkin Buggy Video Poker Plus
Project deadlines have you chained to the office while your friends are in Las Vegas? Get Video Poker Plus, then hum some cheesy lounge tunes, and water down your drinks.

Ziff-Davis Interactive Froggy We all know you bought that PalmPilot to keep track of scheduling and other vital project information. But go ahead, relax during that long flight home and get those frogs safely into their holes.

and graphics. Log on to Blizzard's Battle.net Internet gaming service and war against other players.



ALSO CONSIDER . . .

Sierra Caesar III Build an empire in ancient Rome in this fascinating demo.

MUSIC PROGRAM

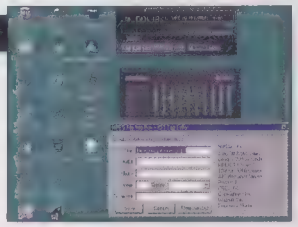
Guitar Chord Buster, Virtual World Software

Let your computer teach you to play the guitar like a pro. This reference and learning tool for beginners, professionals, and teachers will have you strumming in no time.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

John Child Recorder Teacher Anyone—even you—can learn to play the flute-like recorder. This program teaches basic fingering and how to produce the best sound.

MP3 PLAYER



Winamp, Nullsoft

The Web is full of MP3 music files—legal ones that you can nab and share with friends for free. All you need is a player like Winamp. This exceptional utility includes every MP3 feature you'll ever need.

ALSO CONSIDER . . .

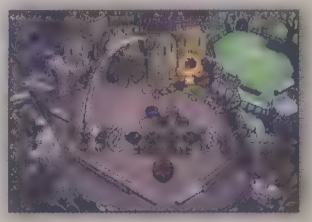
House of Axe NAD Another great MP3 player that lets you hear high-quality tunes on your PC. Best of all, it's absolutely free.

RON WHITE TOP GAME COLLECTION

Looking for some free gaming action? This is the real stuff, the games that sell retail for 50 bucks. The catch? They're demos, which means you get only a few levels, enough to entice you into buying the rest. The good news? You've got a life, and two or three levels may be all you'll play anyway.

Total Annihilation This download gives you 3 of the 50 battles waged by plucky little robot heroes in the 3-D strategy/war game. I got through only two, and I love the game.

Quake II Quake II is fancier than Doom, with better artwork and new monsters, but it's got the same old blood splatters. If you waste your time with only one game download, this should be it.



3-D Ultra Pinball: Creep Night Check out the game that combines the worst of old monster movies with the best of pinball physics in a horizontal table with a life of its own.

Microsoft Monster Truck Madness 2 Hot damn, Bubba! We got us one of those jacked-up trucks and a whole muddy world to go crazy in. *Whoooo-ee!*

Oddworld: Abe's Oddysee This is the side-scrolling game with better art and more imagination. Get the weird creature Abe out before he's made into a sandwich by even weirder creatures.

Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Prepare for sweaty-palm action as you try to take out terrorists in a game where one bullet can mean elimination.

MORE FUN AND GAMES

CATEGORY	PRODUCT	TOP DOWNLOAD	ALSO CONSIDER . . .
CLIP ART	**Dingl Ware Web Page Kaboodle 2: Enhancements**	A collection of graphics ideal for the Web or presentations.	**Webfoot Technologies Web Bits Sampler** A clip art collection in PCX and JPG formats.
FONTS	**Elfring Soft Fonts Script Fonts & Calligraphy**	Excellent script and calligraphy TrueType fonts, including ten typefaces.	**ParaType Scripts** A fine collection of a dozen script fonts.
REFERENCE	**Sandy Bay Software PC Webopaedia Lite**	Over 2,000 PC terms defined, with 70 illustrations and 30 tables.	**Insight Software Solutions Zip Code Explorer** Find U.S. zip codes in seconds.
SOUND COLLECTION	**Ted Tatman Ted's Sci-Fi Wavs for Windows**	A collection of 13 futuristic sounds, including alien voices and effects.	**Ted Tatman Ted's Event WAVs for Windows #1** More sounds from Ted for your system events.
SCREEN SAVER	**Via Nova Animated 3D Objects Screen Saver I**	You'll never get bored of looking at the same thing. Display dozens of beautiful 3-D objects on your PC, including airplanes, fish, and a space station.	**Lucid Numerics 3-D Fotocube** Put up to six of your favorite BMP or JPEG files onto a spinning cube.

PC COMPUTING BUSINESS LABS

RUN YOUR BUSINESS FOR FREE

Free software is great—but can it really replace business apps? To find out, we put it to the test in *PC Computing*'s Business Labs. We brought in business users and pitted the top eight productivity applications from our A-List against the shareware and freeware contenders. Here's the lowdown.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBERT HAUSER

Usability testers compared a $956 suite from Microsoft—consisting of Word 97, Excel 97, Access 97, Publisher 98, Outlook 98, PhotoDraw 2000, Outlook Express, and Internet Explorer—with a $326 collection of little guys—Yeah Write, As-Easy-As, FileMaker Pro Trial, Greenstreet Publisher 3 Lite, Time and Chaos, Paint Shop Pro, Eudora Light, and Internet Explorer.

We asked testers to complete a series of common business tasks with each product, then rate their satisfaction on a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest.

Bottom line: Many of the freebies performed as well as—and in some cases even better than—their commercial counterparts. Overall, testers rated the Microsoft suite a 4.3, which is slightly lower than we expected from apps that are tops in their class. The downloads pulled in an above-average 3.3.

This overall ranking is only part of the story; most businesses already have a core set of apps they use every day. When they think of buying software, it's usually to upgrade existing programs or to accomplish something new. If you're considering purchasing individual apps, our tests have even better news. Need a new information manager? Consider Time and Chaos. The freeware product tied Microsoft Outlook 98 with a score of 4.3. As one tester put it, "The interface is very friendly, and it has everything you need to get organized. It works great."

Testers also gave high marks to Paint Shop Pro—a score of a 4.3 compared with PhotoDraw's 3.7—although PhotoDraw offers more advanced features. To register Paint Shop Pro you must pay $99—but you can try it for free for 30 days, which is long enough to decide if it's worth the money. The same goes for FileMaker Pro Trial, which tied Access with a 3.7 score. (The freebie version we tested limits you to only 50 records; an upgrade to the full-fledged FileMaker Pro costs $99.) Testers also gave rave reviews to Eudora Light, which received a solid score of 4, only a bit lower than Outlook Express's 4.5.

But in two product categories our testers found that nothing compares to the features and ease of use of the top commercial applications. Yeah Write received a miserable score of 1.3, compared with Word's rating of 4.3. Testers chalked this up to Yeah Write's limitations. "It's more a filing cabinet than a word processor," said one tester. "You couldn't pay me to use this product." Testers also rated the shareware spreadsheet poorly, giving As-Easy-As a satisfaction rating of 2.3 compared with Excel's excellent 4.7 rating.

Christine Grech Wendin

TOP DOWNLOADS vs. TOP-SELLERS

SHAREWARE	A-LIST
WORD PROCESSOR	
Yeah Write	Word 97
SPREADSHEET	
As-Easy-As	Excel 97
DATABASE	
FileMaker Pro Trial	Access 97
DESKTOP PUBLISHER	
Greenstreet Publisher 3	Publisher 98
INFORMATION MANAGER	
Time and Chaos	Outlook 98
GRAPHICS PROGRAM	
Paint Shop Pro	PhotoDraw 2000
E-MAIL MANAGER	
Eudora Light	Outlook Express
WEB BROWSER	
Internet Explorer 4.01	Internet Explorer 4.01
TOTAL COST	TOTAL COST
$326	$956
SATISFACTION RATING	SATISFACTION RATING
3.3	4.3

Safety deposit boxes.

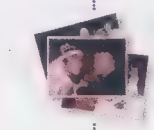
Your guide to personal storage.

iomega.

In the end, w
is all yo

A safe place.

There's no feeling like knowing the things you treasure most are safe. Iomega® Zip® disks give you this feeling by providing a safe place to keep some of your most valuable possessions. Zip disks are, in essence, safety deposit boxes. They give you a place to keep digital copies of the things you'd find difficult to replace, such as wedding photos, tax records, personal works of art, or even your kids' letters to Santa. Important work files will also find sanctuary on Zip disks. Use them to back up all your memos, presentations, and other irreplaceable documents. Save it all on Zip disks and know the feeling of security.

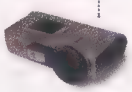


The new Zip® 250 drive and disks are the perfect size for home, work, and everything in between. And it's compatible with the millions of 100MB disks already out there.

Safety in a small package.

Photographs are some of your most valuable, irreplaceable possessions. And the safest place to keep them are on Iomega® Clik!™ disks—they're like rolls of film for your digital camera. Only better. With 40MB per disk, you can save hundreds of snapshots. And, unlike regular negatives, they're much easier to manage, store and transport. Which also makes them ideal for the business traveler. Backing up important presentations on Clik! disks will save the day when your laptop crashes. They're like little portable safety deposit boxes.

Introducing the incredibly small, highly portable 40MB Clik!™ drive and disks. At a size of just 2" by 2", the disks are perfect for mobile computers, digital cameras, and HPCs.



what you save
ou have.

Safety for professionals.

Whether you're a software developer, medical researcher or architect, you've got large files that you simply can't afford to lose. Save them on Iomega® Jaz® disks and they'll be safe. The newly expanded 2GB disks give you the space to store your career's biggest, most valuable work, whether it's code for the next hot video game, genetic research on DNA, or a 3D animated walk-through of the city's new sports arena. Keeping copies of your files safe on Jaz disks can save you a lot of time and money in the event of data loss. It may even save your career.

With the new Iomega® Jaz® 2GB drive, you can save your life's biggest, most important work. And it's compatible with the Jaz 1GB disks you may already have.

Disaster strikes.

It happens to the best of us. We feel a false sense of security when it comes to saving files on our PCs. Take the Stanford Graduate School of Business, for example. A few months ago, years of academic research was somehow erased from two of their servers—an estimated 10 to 15 faculty and students lost files that were not backed up.[1] The solution? Back up everything on Zip®, Jaz®, and Clik!™ disks. End of story.

www.iomega.com for software tools, Norton™ Zip® Rescue download, new products, and more.

Get some peace of mind.

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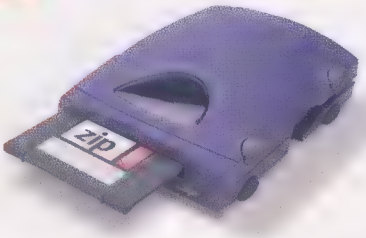

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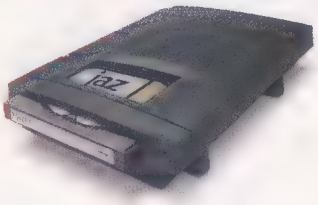

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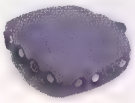

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Can a Pocket PC Really Run Your Business?

PROBLEM

For some tasks, notebooks are just too big, too heavy, and too slow.

SOLUTION

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If you were the size of your pet and your pet were your size, it would probably eat you. Same with a handheld PC: Get the proportions wrong, and suddenly a loyal and trusted servant starts eating your company's bottom line.

Pocket PCs have made astounding gains over the past five years. But how far have they *really* come? Would you trade your inexpensive paperbound organizer for one? Could a handheld device occasionally replace your notebook PC on business trips? Could it replace your notebook outright?

To find out, *PC Computing*'s Business Labs enlisted 29 businesspeople in various professions for a field test. We took away their notebook PCs or paper organizers, gave them pocket PCs—a 3Com Palm III Connected Organizer or a Compaq C-Series 2010c—and told them to like it or lump it for four weeks.

The reports weren't all glowing, but like it they did. Whether you believe pocket PCs are useless digital frippery or you think they're the ultimate answer to productive travel, our real-world test results will surprise you.

BY MARTY JEROME

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBERT HAUSER

"Using this handheld PC has become a part of my daily routine. . . . Note-taking with the stylus is a handy feature. I'm able to jot things down on the fly."
"This device is a glorified calendar and appointment book. It's too expensive and has too many features that I'll never use."
R.O.I.
PC Computing

Scribble, Scribble Pens win. This fact roared from our field test results. Tom Thumb keyboards are simply too small for extensive use. And they're bad for your image: You're constantly hunched over, squinting, pecking away with two fingers as if massaging a hamster. A stylus isn't the perfect solution either.

Input is the most confounding limitation of handheld computers. This is why we divided testers into two camps. One was supplied with 3Com's Palm III, which is palmtop size with a stylus and a 4-inch grayscale screen. The other group of testers got Compaq's C-Series 2010c, a handheld that runs Windows CE and comes with a tiny QWERTY keyboard, color touch screen, and stylus. Of course, there are more than a dozen alternatives to these two models. But the Palm III and the 2010c represent the best you'll find in their respective categories.

We recruited our testers from two companies—Gunderson Dettmer, a securities law firm based in Menlo Park, California, and Trend Technologies, out of San Jose, California, which manufactures plastic and sheet-metal products for high-tech companies. Lawyers, engineers, salespeople, paralegals, marketing execs—their job titles ran the gamut. We gave them a journal in which to report daily on five key productivity tasks: calendaring, to-do, note-taking, e-mail, and synchronization with a PC. They rated their pocket PCs weekly on a scale of 1 to 5 in each area.

On Schedule Thus began our field test. First we wanted to see if these bantam boxes could keep everyone on schedule. The Palm III came out ahead in calendaring, garnering an above average rating. Its simple yet elegant calendar routine drew the most enthusiastic praise. "It is great for appointments," raved a project engineer. "It's the easiest thing to use."

By contrast, most testers deemed the 2010c merely acceptable. However, several testers applauded the 2010c. "I'd use it as I use my laptop for personal scheduling, contacts, and so on," said an account manager.

Testers were less generous in their ratings of to-do and note-taking routines for both devices. They were slightly more satisfied with the Palm III, whose overall scores landed it an acceptable rating in both categories. Testers liked the simplicity of the Palm III's interface, but they tended to trip over the graffiti handwriting system. "I had trouble inputting information with the graffiti alphabet," said a senior paralegal, "so I had to use the onscreen keyboard."

By contrast, testers found the 2010c dismal in both areas. "Something about the to-do leaves me wanting," complained an associate partner. "My Franklin planner is more versatile." Another associate partner

PRODUCTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Palm III

Does the 3Com Palm III Connected Organizer type? No, and man will you be glad. But that doesn't mean its usability is perfect.

Stylus The Palm III's onscreen keyboard doesn't cut it, except for short notes. In this size, the graffiti handwriting system is far more usable.

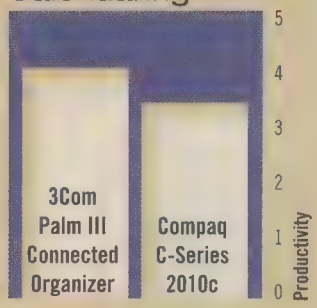
Grayscale Display Even with backlighting, overbright or dim ambient lighting make this screen a bear to read.

One-Button Sync If it can't talk to your PC, why bother with a digital device? The Palm III syncs to your PC with the touch of a button.

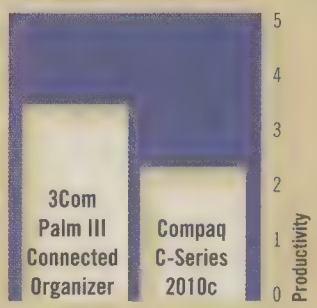
Lab Notes

Task Results

Twenty-nine businesspeople gave up their notebook PCs or paper organizers for four weeks and used a pocket PC instead. They kept detailed daily journals about how they used it and how well they liked it. Each week they scored their machines for five key tasks on a scale of 1 (nonproductive) to 5 (power tool). They also recorded their experiences using the devices in ways that best suited their jobs and personal work styles.



Set a Date Both units triumphed in scheduling, but the Palm III's uncluttered setup gave it a slight lead.



On Task Testers said keeping to-do lists was more complicated than necessary with the Compaq 2010c.

NOTE: RATINGS REFLECT TESTERS' PRODUCTIVITY AND SATISFACTION WHILE USING A HANDHELD PC FOR COMMON BUSINESS TASKS.

complained, "I tried to modify a downloaded document, but it was not practical with this keyboard."

Talk to Me So tote along a notepad if you don't like jotting down electronic reminders. For most business travelers, convenient, highly portable e-mail would cinch the sale on one of these devices in a heartbeat: Kiss your notebook goodbye. And on this count, again opinions split like a pair of tight jeans on a big bottom, with the Palm III barely beating the 2010c.

With e-mail on the 2010c, personal passions kicked in. "The keyboard is great—better than using a stylus," said one tester. But another said, "I'd use it to check e-mail, but not to respond." Many testers liked the familiar Windows interface.

Even so, the Palm III's straightforward approach to e-mail again put it ahead. "I would use this feature all the time," an engineer said. Some testers were downright effusive about the interface, while others harped on the device's shorthand: "Wouldn't use it," said one tester. "I like to respond immediately, and it takes too long to write a response using the stylus."

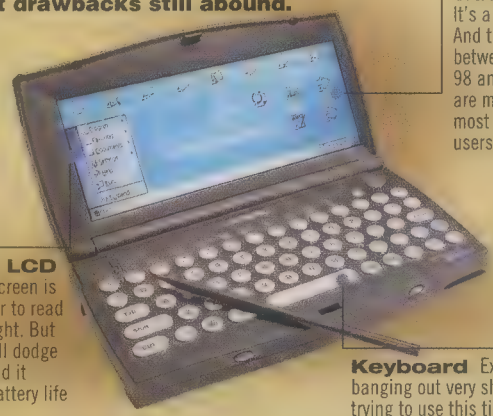
Opinions were just as divided about each device's ability to synchronize data with a desktop PC. But the Palm III's satisfaction rating edged out the 2010c's. No surprises here: The Palm III owes its early success to the one-button ease with which it catapults data to and from a desktop system. Testers loved it: "I would use this daily—very easy," said an attorney.

Synchronization is remarkably easy on the 2010c as well, testers found. Still, some formatting is lost in CE versions of Word and Excel, which irked several testers.

PRODUCTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Compaq 2010c

Windows CE gives the Compaq C-Series 2010c a brilliant color display. And you can use a stylus. But drawbacks still abound.



Windows CE It's a familiar face. And the differences between Windows 98 and Windows CE are minimal. But for most pocket PC users, it's overkill.

Color LCD A color screen is far easier to read in any light. But you'll still dodge glare. And it chows battery life faster.

Keyboard Except for banging out very short notes, trying to use this tiny QWERTY keyboard will have you fuming.

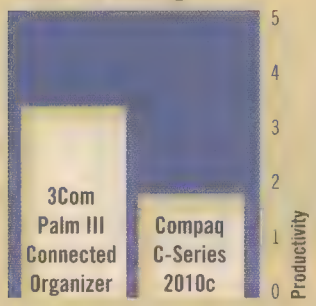
Worth Your Money? When all was said and done, 90 percent of the Palm III testers claimed it raised their productivity. Ten percent said it had no effect. With the 2010c, 43 percent said it increased productivity, 43 percent said it decreased productivity, and 14 percent said it had no effect.

Virtually all complaints about the 2010c were actually aimed at Windows CE. The device itself—especially its bright color LCD, slender footprint, and lightweight 15.2-ounce package—won praise. And there's no question that the 2010c has far more features and power than the Palm III. But Windows CE adds unwanted complexity.

If you plan to travel with a pocket PC, the 3Com Palm III is clearly the way to go. It's no replacement for a notebook, but as our real-world testers found, it's a godsend for productivity. And at 6 ounces, it's marvelously portable.

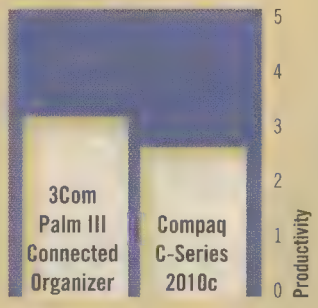
PC COMPUTING BUSINESS LABS

Note-Taking



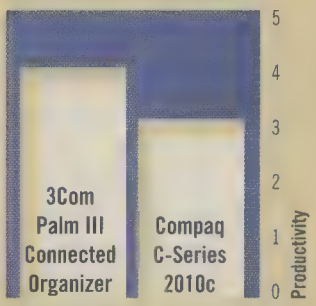
Write This The Palm III's stylus stomped the 2010c's keyboard on note-taking. But the Palm III's special handwriting slowed down some testers.

E-mail



New Mail Windows CE gave the 2010c's e-mail a familiar face, but testers favored the Palm III's instant access to messages.

Synchronization



In Step The Palm III's one-button PC synchronization delighted testers. They found syncing the 2010c easy too.

Decision Time

No one is going to tweak CAD drawings or create multimedia presentations on a handheld PC. But what are these lilliputian devices really good for? As our field test revealed, whether you should choose a palmtop like the 3Com Palm III Connected Organizer or a keyboard-equipped handheld like the Compaq C-Series 2010c depends on what you do and how you do it.

E-mail is your bread and butter. You can't afford to miss a single message. The Palm III's small grayscale screen is fine for reading straight text. The Compaq 2010c's color screen is slightly larger and quite a bit brighter. Attachments—especially graphics—are iffy or impossible for any handheld. And if you're required to pen a lengthy reply, you'll curse the Palm III's stylus. But the baby keyboard on the 2010c is no picnic either.

Both the Palm III and the Compaq 2010c are great for basic e-mail—brief updates and quick replies.

You spend your day taking notes and jotting reminders. Need to remind yourself about a conference coming up in June? Want someone to draw you a map to the local golf course? Pocket PCs—especially the Palm III—are perfect for such tasks. Once you learn the Palm III's graffiti, you'll be able to capture quick thoughts in a flash. But if you need to take detailed minutes for a meeting or hash out a memo defending your departmental budget, you'll want bigger iron.

The Palm III is perfect for taking short notes or making quick drawings.

Meetings make or break you. Which means the information in your calendar is probably more valuable than whatever device you use to store it. Scheduling is where the Palm III shines—even for keeping multiple calendars. But if your schedule requires hard-core project management or collaboration, you'll quickly overwhelm its built-in features. The desktop component of its scheduling applet may not fit everyone's needs, but many PC schedulers sync to the Palm III, and add-ons will let you force those that don't.

You'll always be on time with the Palm III.

You live inside Word and Excel. For word processing and spreadsheets, there's more promise than payoff where pocket PCs are concerned—for both the Palm III and the 2010c. Sure, the pocket versions of Microsoft Word and Excel that you get with the 2010c work. But after an hour of squinting at the skinny screen and poking at the 2010c's chiclet-size keys, you'll long for the full Windows versions of your favorite apps. The Palm III's lack of a keyboard and bare-bones notes feature make it an even less attractive option.

You're better off sticking with a notebook.

The Web is your office. Here's some advice: If you plan to spend long hours browsing the Web with a pocket PC, make sure you've had your vision checked. The Palm III's display simply doesn't do justice to full-color Web pages, although it's fine for viewing straight text like news and stock quotes. A handheld Windows CE 2.0 device like the 2010c is a better choice because of its larger color screen and greater computing power. Just carry a magnifying glass.

Put the Internet—in full color—in your pocket with the Compaq 2010c.

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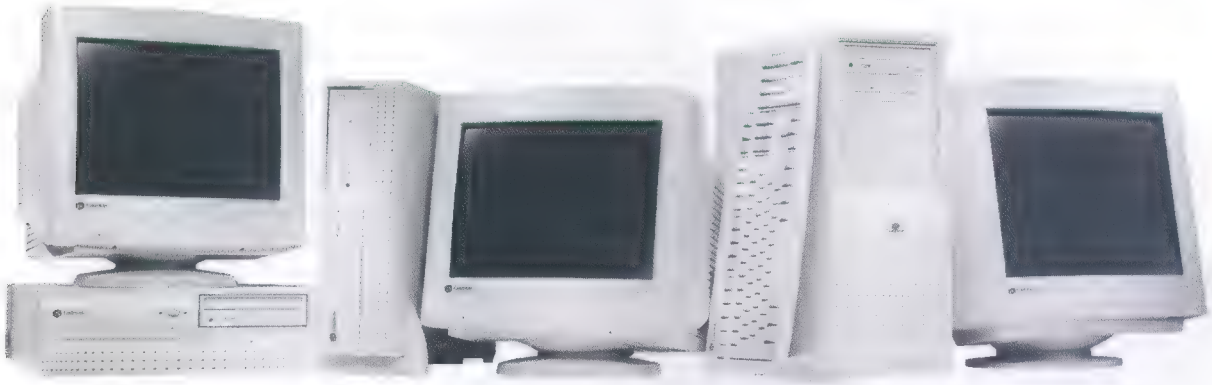

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- VX900 19" Color Monitor (17.9" viewable)
- AccelGraphics™ Permedia® II with 8MB SGRAM
- 3Com® 10/100 Ethernet with Wake-up On LAN
- Microsoft® Windows® NT 4.0
- 3-Year Warranty*

$1999 or $55/month for 48 mos. lease**

E-5200 450

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- 128MB ECC SDRAM
- 9GB Ultra2 SCSI Hard Drive
- 13X min/32X max SCSI CD-ROM Drive
- VX900 19" Color Monitor (17.9" viewable)
- AccelGraphics Permedia II with 8MB SGRAM
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- MS Windows NT 4.0
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intel inside pentium® II xeon™ PROCESSOR

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GP6-400

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- 3.5" Diskette Drive
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- Mid-Tower Case
- 10/100 Ethernet Network Card
- 104+ Keyboard & Mouse
- Microsoft Windows 98
- MS Office 97, Small Business Edition plus Bookshelf 98
- Gateway Gold Service for G-Series PCs*

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GP6-450

- Intel Pentium II Processor 450MHz with 512K Cache
- 128MB SDRAM
- VX900 19" Color Monitor (17.9" viewable)
- 16MB AGP Graphics
- 16GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 13X min/32X max CD-ROM Drive
- Iomega Internal ZIP Drive
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- SoundBlaster AudioPCI 64V
- Altec Lansing GCS-100 Speakers
- Mid-Tower Case
- 10/100 Ethernet Network Card
- 104+ Keyboard & Mouse
- Microsoft Windows 98
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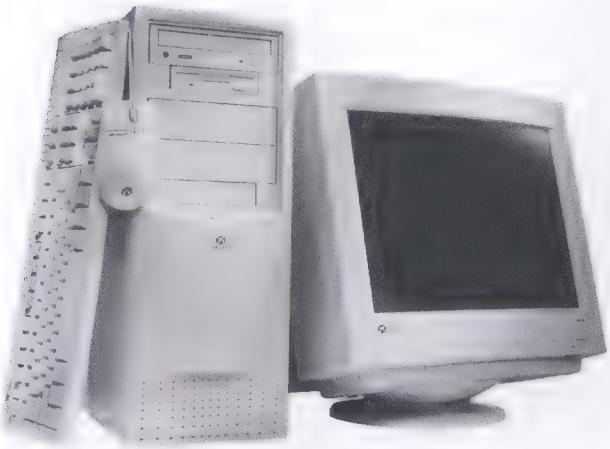

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- **Business Graphics Pack** - Market your products and services more effectively - on paper and online with this comprehensive software bundle. **$149** (includes Visio® Standard 5.0, Adobe Photo Deluxe® Business Edition, LiveArt™ 98, Simply 3D™).
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- MS Office 97, Small Business Edition
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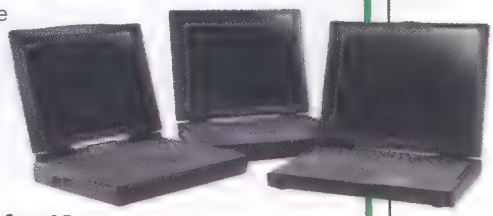

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Hyperbook 735 $1395 plus S&H **Hyperbook 835 $1845** plus S&H

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Clik vs. Flash RAM

Digital cameras require vast reservoirs of removable storage to hold high-resolution, true-color images. Right now, the most popular form of short-term storage for digital images is CompactFlash. But Iomega, maker of the Zip drive, is pushing its contender: the Clik.

Because flash RAM cards are made of complex transistors that retain an electrical charge even in the absence of current, they're not cheap. Right now a 32MB CompactFlash card costs around $130, or about $4 per megabyte. Smaller-capacity cards are more affordable but hold far fewer images than a conventional roll of 35mm film. The good news is that two dozen companies are currently churning out CompactFlash cards, while other high-tech superstars are pushing their own digital camera storage solutions. Toshiba, for example, can pack 16MB onto its credit card–thin SmartMedia while Sony has just unveiled the 4MB and 8MB Memory Stick. This fierce competition and the economies of scale should drive CompactFlash card prices down to less than $2 per megabyte by the year 2000, when improvements in flash card technology will let engineers pack 256MB into each card.

Mini Zip The Clik uses a dense magnetic coating and precision read/write heads to store 40MB of data on a shielded disk that's a little smaller than a matchbook. At 25 cents per megabyte, Clik disks are far cheaper than CompactFlash. Right now the Clik complements CompactFlash by providing a place to store digital images when you use up your

By Ron White

CompactFlash Memory

CompactFlash card's memory—say, at the bottom of the Grand Canyon. This summer, when manufacturers start building the Clik into digital cameras, it will directly compete with CompactFlash. Until then, using Clik floppies along with CompactFlash means carrying the portable drive and a flash-reader attachment to transfer images from a camera's flash memory. You also need a docking station or a PC Card slot to transfer images from the Clik to a PC. Unlike CompactFlash, Clik drives use precision mechanical parts that are subject to wear and tear.

Look for other miniaturized removable storage options to emerge as handheld PCs, smart phones, and other devices develop features that require rewritable memory. IBM, for example, recently announced that the microdrive, a 340MB hard drive the size of a Triscuit cracker, will be released by summertime. It's expected to cost $1 per megabyte and will find a home in the Type II PC Card slots of high-end digital cameras and handheld PCs. And because the microdrive's high capacity has never been available in such a small package, expect it to usher in the invention of new types of consumer electronics in addition to improving existing ones.

Winner: COMPACTFLASH

For the price of a 32MB CompactFlash card you can get a Clik drive and a CompactFlash memory reader. After this, the $10 cost of 40MB Clik disks is negligible. But the Clik adds clutter to the camera bag, and its mechanical parts are a malfunction waiting to happen. CompactFlash is lightweight, reliable, and hassle-free storage. Watch for flash capacities to rise as prices fall.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY TIMOTHY EDWARD DOWNS

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Another Type Z Personality.

My real job is being a single dad, but my business card says I'm an architect.

The other day we're upgrading the office, and I'm doing the buying. We need five screaming Intel® Pentium® II boxes, two PC servers and several color printers. So I pop onto ZDNet's Products Review channel to read some reviews, then click over to computershopper.com to shop, compare and buy. An hour later my work is done.

So I take off a little early, swing by Kate's daycare and head home. I make us some sandwiches and we get to work on my favorite housing project yet.

I love it when I get stuff done.

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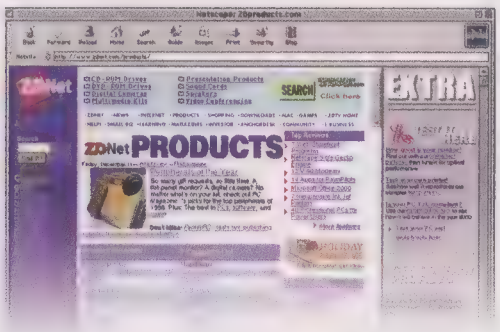

Type Z (n): A person who embraces change and uses technology to make work—and life—easier. Gets lots done, without looking burdened. Knows a lot, but isn't a know-it-all. Asks good questions; finds answers fast. Uses ZDNet: The High-Tech Hub. (see also: leaders, decision makers, influencers and trendsetters)

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Not quite sure about abandoning your local branch? Chances are the branch where you used to do your banking isn't there anymore. Deregulation and megamergers are changing everything you used to know and love about local banking. Many branches are closing, moving, or morphing into grocery store kiosks. Many tellers have been axed; and, in the name of controlling costs, banks have changed their services and are charging fees for things that used to be free.

PROBLEM

Long lines, high fees, surly tellers. There's got to be a better way.

SOLUTION

Pay bills and do all your banking from anywhere, anytime.

Don't think that only a few brave souls are blazing the Internet banking trail. In the age of secure transactions and easy-to-use interfaces, the number of people banking online is growing rapidly. Roughly 5.8 million Americans step into an Internet bank branch regularly, and this number should increase 26 percent annually through 2002, according to market researcher INTECO. Some people take care of their banking needs with a simple browser at a bank's Web site. Others use Microsoft Money, Intuit Quicken, or MECA Software Managing Your Money to manage family or home-business budgets, track investments, plan for retirement—the whole gamut of financial services and activities.

E-banking is the way banks want you to bank. It lets them reduce their number of employees and branches and offer the best banking deals. But these online services help *you* as well—with fewer checks, fewer costly visits to an ATM, and fewer irritating fees. We show you how to get started with a look at the top banking services.

ONLINE BANKING 101

- Save time by banking from your PC whenever you want.
- Save money with Internet deals.
- Sidestep rising bank fees for teller visits and bounced checks.
- Let automatic downloads deal with balancing your checkbook.

ILLUSTRATION BY RANDEE LADDEN

BY MIKE HOGAN

Easy to E-bank So you're ready to set fire to your checkbook and never talk to a teller again? Good for you. Here's what it takes to join the e-banking world. You can get started with just a Web browser and a low-balance checking account at one of the hundreds of institutions that support online banking and/or bill-paying via the Internet (see "Top E-Banking Services," page 202). Just fill out the registration forms, and then begin to transfer funds between accounts, make bill payments, time their arrival, and reconcile accounts with very little math or writing. And you can check your account balances any time of day or night from your bank's secure Web site instead of waiting 30 days for a paper statement with outdated information.

You can also manage your day-to-day banking chores in less time and keep better track of your money. In addition, you can take advantage of banks' so-called express checking accounts, which are cheaper but restrict your office visits, phone calls, and other services that require to you talk to someone. But who needs human interaction if you've got a modem?

Payback Time Banks will be banks, and they love to price their services to confuse you. Still, you should be able to find a bank with a bill-paying deal for under $10 a month. It's a rare bank that doesn't offer its Internet account access for free; many are only too happy to throw in online bill-paying too if you park enough money in your account (around $5,000).

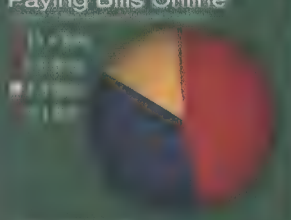
Even if you're charged for Internet bill-paying, you'll probably recoup that fee in the amount you save on stamps and envelopes. If you bounce one less check, you'll probably save enough in overdraft charges to pay for two months of e-banking. Online banking and bill-paying also saves you the hassle of writing the same checks every month, like mortgage payments. The bank balances your account so you don't have to chase down that last 37 cents that threw your math off. And of course, no one ever got glue tongue or a paper cut from paying bills online.

If that's enough for you, Web banking is a smart choice. But just conducting transactions over the Net is a far cry from truly managing your finances.

To get a handle on your finances, you need to bank from inside a good personal finance manager like Microsoft Money 99, Intuit Quicken 99, or MECA Managing Your Money. These packages are fast and let you effortlessly capture all your banking data, plus you can customize your account views to your way of working. They also provide gateways to infinitely more financial management tools and advice on the Web.

TRENDS

Paying Bills Online



No Checks Required Almost half of Web bank users surveyed pay at least 10 bills online each month. The majority say they prefer doing it online.

TRENDS

People Banking Online

Digital Dollars The number of PC bank users should grow 26 percent annually through 2002. Good news: Fees are likely to stay about the same.

The hands-down fastest, easiest way to e-bank is with Quicken 99. This new version stores the passwords for all your financial institutions in one place, so a single modem call downloads the latest checking, savings, credit card, loan, and other statements from all your investment and banking institutions. During that same call, your queue of bills is uploaded and any interaccount transfers are made.

With Microsoft Money you have to make separate calls to each of your financial institutions. However, Money still downloads data from multiple accounts for further analysis, and it requires far fewer keystrokes and far less time than any bank Web site. And if you use a Web-enabled credit card for purchases not covered by a check, you'll barely have to type anything. Few bank Web sites offer any way to capture your data directly to Quicken or Money; downloads through Managing Your Money are limited to NationsBank and a few smaller institutions.

In addition to better banking and bill-paying tools, these personal finance managers are chockfull of calculators, worksheets, and ready-made reports that help you track your investments, analyze your tax liability, plan for retirement or college, and even shop for insurance, loans, and other financial services online. Once you've added six months or more of your bank account, credit card, and bill payment data into your Quicken or Money account registers, you can quickly pull budgets or cash-flow reports, and use the programs' college, retirement, and other long-range planning tools. Both programs have excellent portfolio managers to track your investments—you can download the per-share prices and other data from these personal finance managers. Both Quicken and Money are browser-equipped and tightly linked to Web sites (Quicken.com and www.moneycentral.msn.com) that have more free money-management advice and planning tools than the average investor will ever outgrow.

Banking with personal finance managers, though, costs more than plain Web-based banking. You have to shell out $35 to $65 up front for Quicken 99 or Microsoft Money 99. You can download the custom version of Managing Your Money for NationsBank from its Web site; otherwise it's available for about $8 in shipping and handling. In addition, banks usually charge a dollar or two more per month for banking and bill-paying from within Quicken or Money.

Shopping Through Your Bank But software prices aren't really the issue. The main question to ask before choosing between Web and personal finance manager banking is, how involved do you want to be in managing your money? And the answer for most people is—not much. Experts see bank Web sites, rather than comprehensive personal finance managers, as the face of e-banking to come.

Look at the numbers. Even though there are some 12 million regular personal finance manager users, that's a small percentage of the 100 million–plus checking account holders. And consider the growing popularity of the Web. For the estimated 78 million adult Americans already surfing, what's easier than another click on a bank bookmark?

Bank Web sites are, well, a little stodgy today. But analysts predict they'll be your Web portal of choice for e-commerce tomorrow. Just as you might stop off at a branch or an ATM before going shopping, you may find an array of merchants offering deals on your bank's Web page. When you click through, your bank will notify the merchant of your credit line and get a small finder's fee for its trouble. You may not mind this because you'll get your shopping done more quickly and a discount, too. For a taste of the future in banking, check out BofA's Build Your Own Bank initiative (www.bofa.com).

In the past, most people picked their bank based on proximity to their homes and jobs. (It's a rare bank that offers some service others don't.) But if you bank and pay bills online and get your walking-around money from an ATM or when you buy groceries, branch locations matter little. To help you pick the right package for your needs, check out "Top E-Banking Services," page 202.

TRENDS

FUTURE WATCH

Smart Cards: Pocket ATM

Don't you just hate pennies? And it's no picnic carrying nickels, dimes, and quarters either. There always seems to be too much change or not enough. Need a better solution? Smart cards could be the answer for having the exact amount of money every time, anywhere.

Imagine paying for that burger with plastic, or whipping out a credit card to make a call from a phone booth, use a vending machine, or get a cup of hot joe in the morning. Soon you'll do just that—although you'll use not your Visa but something similar, dubbed a smart card, such as Hewlett-Packard's Smart Card (right). Smart cards carry a microchip that stores $5 to $100 worth of money from your checking account. One day you'll be able to replenish your smart card at ATMs or via a slot on your PC.

Smart cards are already popular in Europe, and they've also been tested in North America. For the past year, some 100,000 residents of New York's Upper West Side have been using smart cards to shop at neighborhood stores. Bank of America and Wells Fargo Bank employees use them to shop the Internet; and some 40 universities have replaced student IDs with smart cards that students use in campus laundry machines, photocopiers, and vending machines.

E-cash isn't the only thing that you can store on a smart card. There's also plenty of room for your health records, access codes to front doors and LANs—even small PC applets. London market researcher Ovum predicts that these applications, rather than electronic cash, will fuel smart card growth in the United States.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK COMPTON

TOP E-BANKING SERVICES

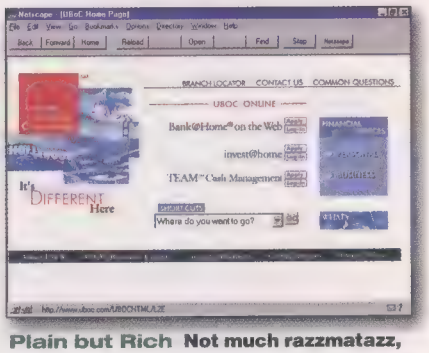
PRODUCT*	Access	Monthly Banking Fee/ No. of Sessions	Monthly Bill-Paying Fee/ No. of Payments	Pros	Cons	Verdict
Bank of America HomeBanking www.bankamerica.com *InfoLink No. 603*	Web site, AOL, Managing Your Money	Free/unlimited	$5.95/unlimited	Hooks up to lots of financial info; unlimited access makes it a great deal for high-volume e-customers.	Doesn't work directly with Money or Quicken.	☆☆☆☆☆ **The easy way to get started with Web banking.**
Citibank Direct Access www.citibank.com *InfoLink No. 601*	Web site, AOL, Money, Quicken	Free/unlimited	Free/unlimited	Free, unlimited banking and bill paying; free stock quotes depending on account.	Pricey checking accounts.	☆☆☆☆☆ **The top choice for banking from your personal finance manager.**
Union Bank of California Bank@Home www.uboc.com *InfoLink No. 602*	Web site, AOL, Money, Quicken	Free/ 10 (25 cents each additional session)	$4.95/25 (40 cents each additional payment)	Free checking account first year of service; $50 sign-up bonus.	No credit-card data download.	☆☆☆☆☆ **Get paid to bank on the Web.**
Chase Manhattan Bank Online Banking www.chase.com *InfoLink No. 604*	Web site, Money, Quicken	Free/unlimited on Web site; $2.95/12 (50 cents each additional session) with PFM	Free/unlimited on Web site; 50 cents for each payment with PFM	Unlimited banking on the Web.	Web site needs Chase software; expensive bill payment if using Quicken or Money.	☆☆☆☆ **Affordable Web banking, but pricey if you use a personal finance manager.**
Sanwa Bank California PC Banking www.sanwa-bank-ca.com *InfoLink No. 605*	BankNow software, Money, Quicken	Free/8 (30 cents each additional session)	$5.95/20 (45 cents each additional payment)	First 90 days and a copy of Money are free.	No Web-only banking—requires additional software.	☆☆☆☆ **Heavy on the options and right on the money.**
Wells Fargo Bank Wells Fargo Online www.wellsfargo.com *InfoLink No. 606*	Web site, AOL, Money, Quicken	Free/unlimited on Web site; $3/unlimited from PFM	$5/25 (40 cents each additional payment)	Good set of financial services and calculators.	Keeps only 45-day transaction history.	☆☆☆☆ **Well-rounded and affordable e-banking site.**

*FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO WWW.PCCOMPUTING.COM/INFOLINK.

☆☆☆☆☆ EXCELLENT ☆☆☆☆ GOOD ☆☆☆ ACCEPTABLE ☆☆ POOR ☆ UNACCEPTABLE

Crystal Clear Bank of America's HomeBanking offers clear choices—from a personalized interface to financial calculators and worksheets.

Such a Deal Citibank's Web site gets an A for innovation (if not clarity). More important, few banks can match its e-banking prices or global reach.

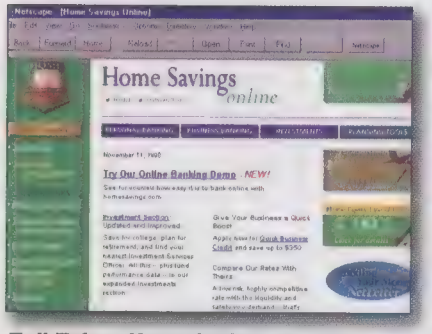


Plain but Rich Not much razzmatazz, but Union Bank's home page puts you a click away from using any of its diverse financial services.

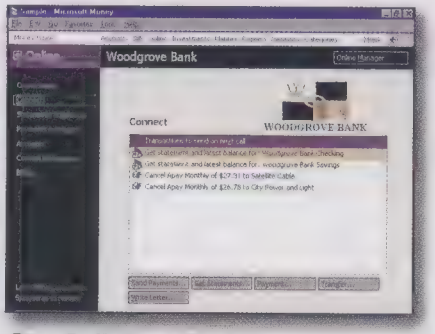
PRODUCT*	Access	Monthly Banking Fee/ No. of Sessions	Monthly Bill-Paying Fee/ No. of Payments	Pros	Cons	Verdict
BankBoston HomeLink www.bankboston.com *InfoLink No. 607*	Web site, Money, Quicken	Free/unlimited	$3.50/unlimited for Web site; $6.95/unlimited through PFM	Reasonable fees for Web banking.	Pricey personal finance manager bill-pay; doesn't keep data long.	☆☆☆ **Better services abound.**
First Chicago NBD Internet Bank www.fcnbd.com *InfoLink No. 608*	Web site, AOL, Money, Quicken	Free/unlimited on Web site; $3.95/12 ($1 each additional session) for PFM	No Web site bill-pay; $6.95/ 20 (40 cents each additional payment) with PFM	Good financial service site with brokerage links.	No Web bill-paying; limited account access; high prices.	☆☆☆ **Internet banking was meant to be better than this.**
Home Savings Online Banking www.homesavings .com *InfoLink No. 609*	Web site, Money, Quicken	Free/unlimited on Web site; free/8 (30 cents each additional session) from PFM	$4.95/20 (35 cents each additional payment) from Web site; $6.95/ 20 (40 cents each additional) from PFM	Solid set of financial planning tools.	No download to Money or Quicken from Web site.	☆☆☆ **A pricey way to e-bank.**
NationsBank Online www.nationsbank.com *InfoLink No. 610*	Web site, Managing Your Money	Free/unlimited	No Web site bill-paying; $5.95/ 20 (50 cents each additional payment) with MYM	Decent set of financial planning tools.	Unfriendly site; lacks Web bill-paying; no access from Money or Quicken.	☆☆☆ **Could take a lesson or two from affiliate Bank of America.**
SunTrust PC Banking www.suntrust.com *InfoLink No. 611*	AOL, Money, Quicken	$5.95/8 (75 cents each add'l session)	$9.95/20 (75 cents each additional payment)	First 90 days free.	No Web-only banking; expensive.	☆☆☆ **Not a lot to lure customers.**
U.S. Bank UBank Online www.usbank.com *InfoLink No. 612*	Web site, AOL, Managing Your Money, Money, Quicken	Free/unlimited on Web site; $3.95/unlimited through PFM or AOL	No Web site bill-paying; $5.95/15 (40 cents each additional payment) with AOL, PFM	Free copy of Managing Your Money.	No Web bill-paying options.	☆☆☆ **Wide range of options, but you'll pay for it.**

*FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO WWW.PCCOMPUTING.COM/INFOLINK.

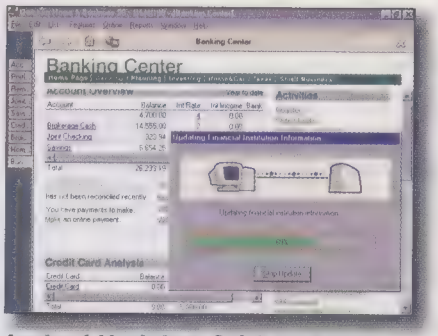
★★★★★ EXCELLENT ★★★★ GOOD ★★★ ACCEPTABLE ★★ POOR ★ UNACCEPTABLE



Full Price **Home Savings is a wide-ranging financial Web site. It's a great place to visit, but its online banking and bill-paying are a little pricey.**



One Call Does It All **Use products like Money 99 in conjunction with your bank to handle multiple transactions for one account.**



Instant Updates **Quicken 99 goes Money 99 one better by updating all your accounts from all your financial institutions in a single phone call.**

Network Neighbo

PROBLEM

Why does sharing printers, files, and Web access have to be so hard?

SOLUTION

Affordable instant networks make it easy for office or home.

PCs are dirt cheap. That's how you rationalized buying a second or third system for your small business. Or a machine to keep in the den just for the kids. But if you haven't networked your home or office PCs, you're throwing money away. A small network lets all your computers share resources—from printers and scanners to Jaz drives and ISP accounts. And it pays for itself in no time.

Networking used to be a scary word, one that didn't apply to the small office or home. But thanks to new technology, setting up a network has never been easier. Choose from three types of affordable kits: Ethernet; wireless; or instant networks that use existing wires, telephone jacks, and electrical outlets. All three kinds of kits come with everything you need to get started.

Ethernet is the most popular type of small network, and kits costing as little as $100 deliver speeds of either 10Mbps or 100Mbps. You install network cards in your PCs, then run cables that connect them to a central device called a hub. Ethernet setups make sense if the computers are located in the same or adjoining rooms. They're also the best choice when speed is critical—if, for example, you need to transfer large files back and forth. However, don't choose Ethernet if your computers are spread out on different floors or scattered throughout a home or office.

PHOTOGRAPHER: MARK COMPTON ILLUSTRATOR: MIKE SCOTT

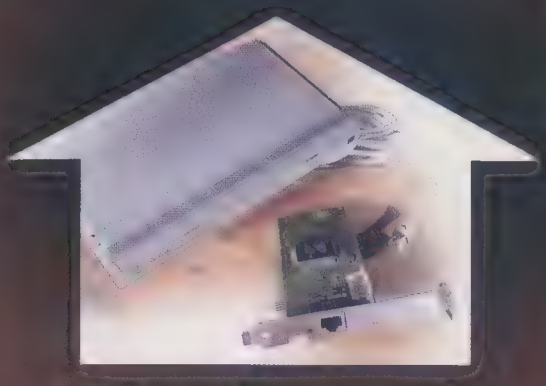
BY SARAH L. ROBERTS-WITT

rhood

Wireless home-networking kits use radio-frequency technology to cut the cables. To set up these networks, you install a special network card in each PC. Wireless kits cost two to three times as much as Ethernet models, and they're not nearly as fast—they top out at speeds of 2Mbps—but the extra convenience is often worth the money. Another drawback? The PCs must be fairly close together—no more than 75 to 150 feet apart, depending on the product. Go with wireless networking if you have portables or PCs in close proximity, and you use them for light business or home tasks. Also choose wireless if you need the flexibility of moving your PCs around.

Finally, consider taking advantage of the wires that already run through your home or office. Power-grid networks use your AC outlets to connect PCs in different rooms without the need for any new cables. The same goes for technology that lets you use your home's phone lines for networking. These types of networks are also much slower than Ethernet—only about 1Mbps—but they're typically a bit more affordable than wireless products. One of these networks makes sense if your PCs are spread out around the home or office and you don't expect to do demanding tasks.

To help you get started, we've selected the best product in each class. We'll show you everything you need to get connected.



Ethernet

- Kits cost as little as $100.
- Fast, with speeds of 10Mbps or 100Mbps.
- Requires cables between PCs.

Wireless

- Kits range from $200 to $300.
- Speeds up to 2Mbps.
- No cables, but limited to between 75 and 100 feet between PCs.

Phone-Line and AC

- Kits start at $200.
- Speeds up to 1Mbps.
- Uses wires you already have in your office or home.

ETHERNET NETWORKS

Nice color printer. Too bad you never get to use it. Well, that's not exactly true. If you save your files to a floppy disk, you can walk across the room to your assistant's PC, load up PowerPoint, then print out your presentations in glorious color. There must be an easier way.

There is: an Ethernet networking kit. These kits are amazingly affordable, letting you connect two PCs and all their peripherals for as little as $100. And while you do have to mess with some cabling, these kits are fairly easy to install—you can be up and running in less than an hour.

You begin by opening up each PC and installing a network interface card (NIC). Next, you plug cables from the NICs into the hub—a small device that acts as a central meeting point for all your network traffic. Then you turn on the computers, load the required software drivers, and set up Windows networking. (Setting up Windows peer-to-peer networking is the trickiest part of all, but the best kits have software wizards and quick-start guides that walk you through the process.)

Money Saver Along with being the most affordable, Ethernet networks are also the fastest. Performance starts at 10Mbps for basic Ethernet and goes up to 100Mbps for somewhat pricier Fast Ethernet versions. Either way you get more than enough bandwidth for transferring even the largest files or playing demanding action games head-to-head. And unlike other types of networking kits, most Ethernet networks work with a wide variety of operating systems, including Windows 95 and 98, Windows NT, and Linux. Growing your network is easy too: Add another PC by plugging in another NIC and cables.

But Ethernet kits have drawbacks. If you have PCs in different rooms or on different floors, it can be difficult to run the cables through walls, hide them under rugs, or sneak them along the edge of staircases. Unless you're comfortable punching holes in walls or leaving loose cabling in the hallways, you'll need to hire a professional to do the wiring. If you have an office or home with far-flung PCs, choose a wireless network or one that uses your existing telephone or electrical wiring.

PCComputing BEST

3Com's OfficeConnect Networking Kit comes with everything you need to link two PCs and share their peripherals. Its smart software makes it a snap to set up too.

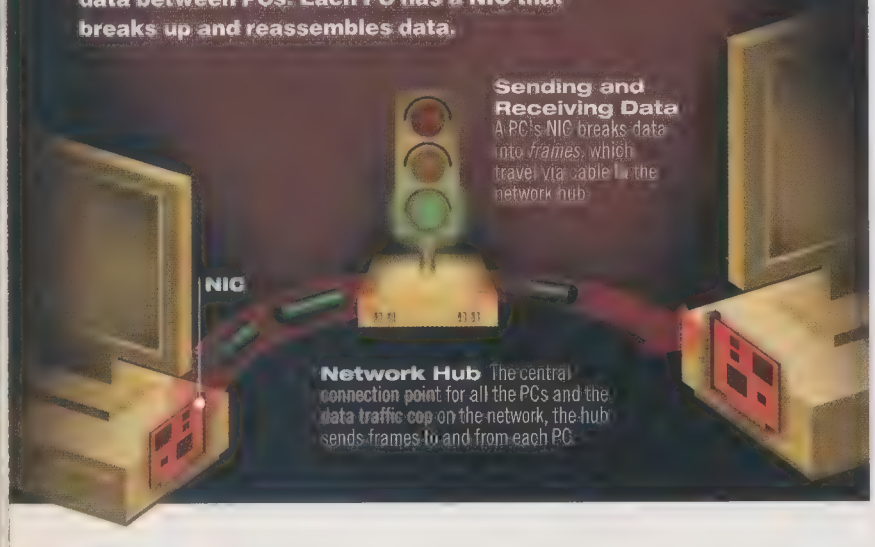
3Com / (800) 638-3266 / $119 est. street price / *Enter 621 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

Also Consider **You'll find similar kits for hooking up two PCs from D-Link Systems, IBM, NetGear, and others. If you shop around, you can find kits for as little as $100.**

HOW IT WORKS

Ethernet Networking

High-speed wired kits use cables to transfer data between PCs. Each PC has a NIC that breaks up and reassembles data.



Lab Notes Getting our Ethernet network rolling with 3Com's OfficeConnect Networking Kit was surprisingly easy. Each NIC snapped right into place in our PCs, and plugging the cables into the network hub was simple. When we started up the computers, Windows 95 and 98 recognized the NICs immediately. A handy Quick Steps guide walked us through the intricacies of Windows 95 and 98 networking.

WIRELESS NETWORKS

Imagine sitting on the patio with your notebook PC and grabbing a file from your desktop PC's hard drive. Or connecting to the Internet and reading e-mail from the comfort of your couch. How about relocating your entire office and having the network up and running in minutes? With wireless networking, it's that easy.

Like an Ethernet network, a wireless network starts with network interface cards. But these NICs don't have cables, nor do they require a hub. Instead, you simply attach the included antenna to each NIC and place it in the highest place possible. Next you install some software, and your network is up and running.

No Cables Required Not only do you avoid the hassles of wires and hubs, but no other networking option gives you more flexibility. A radio-frequency wireless network works through walls, so you can put machines practically anywhere you want and move them on a whim. A wireless network is also a great choice for people on the go who use a notebook as their primary machine. You'll skip the headache of connecting and reconnecting to the network via a docking station or a too-short cable every time you return to the office.

But a wireless network also has its downsides. First, it's considerably slower than Ethernet, topping out at 2Mbps. And its performance isn't always reliable, especially if you work on PCs that are on the edge of the receiving range. The Proxim Symphony Home and Small Office Cordless Networking Suite we tested has a range of 150 feet, but other kits promise to work up to only about 75 feet.

Wireless systems are also more expensive than other types of networks. Connecting two PCs with the Proxim Symphony will run you close to $300. Hooking up a notebook adds another $199, while adding a third desktop PC to the network costs you an additional $149. And if you want to share a modem, Proxim's Symphony Cordless Modem option is $299. The good news is that prices should drop as competition in the market heats up. It's already starting: Diamond Multimedia Systems' HomeFree Desktop Pac wireless system for two PCs costs just $200.

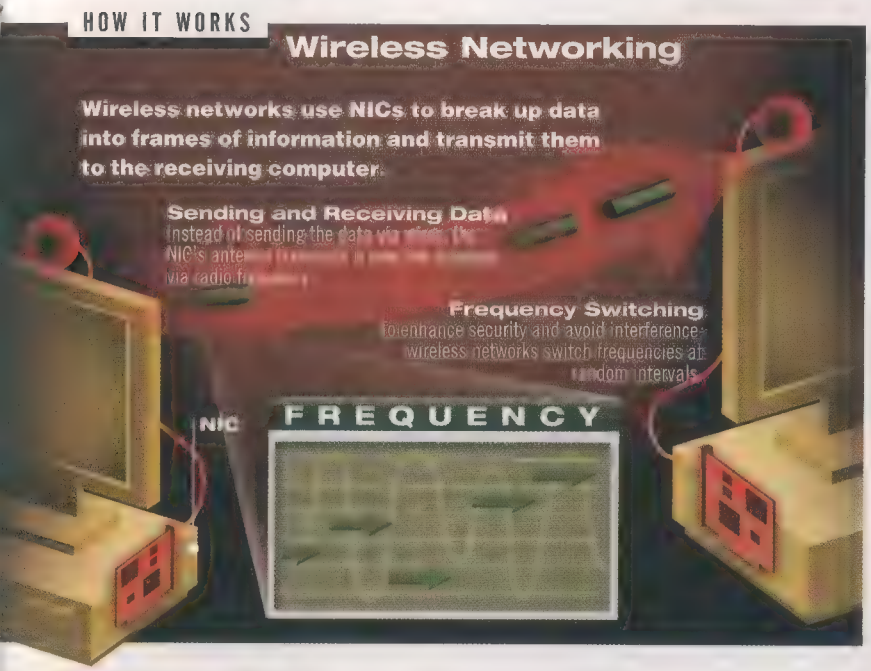
PCComputing BEST

Proxim's Symphony Home and Small Office Cordless Networking Suite makes getting connected painless—especially if you have PCs spread out in different rooms.

Proxim / (650) 960-1630 / $149 for ISA desktop card, $199 for PC card, est. street prices / *Enter 622 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

Also Consider **Both WebGear's Aviator Wireless Networking Kit and Diamond's HomeFree Desktop Pac come with everything you need for a two-PC wireless network at about $200.**

HOW IT WORKS



Lab Notes Proxim's Symphony wireless networking solution was easy to set up. We installed the special NICs, connected each antenna and positioned it as high as possible, and then turned on the systems. Windows 95 immediately prompted us for the networking drivers that came with the kit. Keep your Windows 95 or Windows 98 CD close at hand during installation—you'll need it to complete the setup process.

PHONE-LINE AND AC NETWORKS

Adding a new computer to your office? Unpack it, then plug it into your phone jack—that's all it takes to power it up *and* hook it up to your network. And yes, you can still talk on the phone at the same time. Or you have another option: Plug it into your standard electrical outlet and instantly connect it to your small network.

Finally—a way to take advantage of all those telephone jacks and electrical outlets dotting the walls of your home or office. A new crop of small-networking kits lets you use your existing wiring setup—phone lines or electrical grid—to install a network in minutes. These kits are great for locations where you have PCs located on different floors and rooms.

With Tut Systems' HomeRun you simply install a special network interface card into each PC, then plug the computers into standard phone jacks. The HomeRun takes advantage of an unused frequency in the telephone wiring, so voice calls aren't affected. In fact, you can send data and talk on the phone at the same time. If you find yourself outgrowing the 1Mbps HomeRun and needing more speed, you can hook up a HomeRun-based PC to an Ethernet network because the NIC has a standard Ethernet port onboard.

Tut Systems sells HomeRun as part of its Expresso MDU service, and has licensed the technology to 3Com, AT&T Wireless, Compaq, Intel, Lucent, Motorola, and several other companies to develop products as well.

Even Easier If installing NICs isn't for you, consider the Intelogis PassPort. You avoid running cables all over your office, and you don't have to crack open any computer cases. You simply plug a PassPort adapter into an AC outlet and attach the supplied cable to your PC's or printer's parallel port. Then install the included network software and you're done. The PassPort even lets you share a single Internet connection among PCs.

The PassPort is amazingly easy to set up, but it has a few drawbacks. For one thing, it's slow: Its top speed is a plodding 350Kbps. That's fine for basic tasks like printer sharing, but poky for sharing big files. The PassPort adapters also lack parallel-port pass-throughs, so if you want to use a printer or other device, make sure it has its own pass-through option.

PCComputing BEST

Tut Systems' HomeRun technology is perfect for networks that need to be flexible. Simply plug PCs and peripherals into phone jacks, and you're connected.

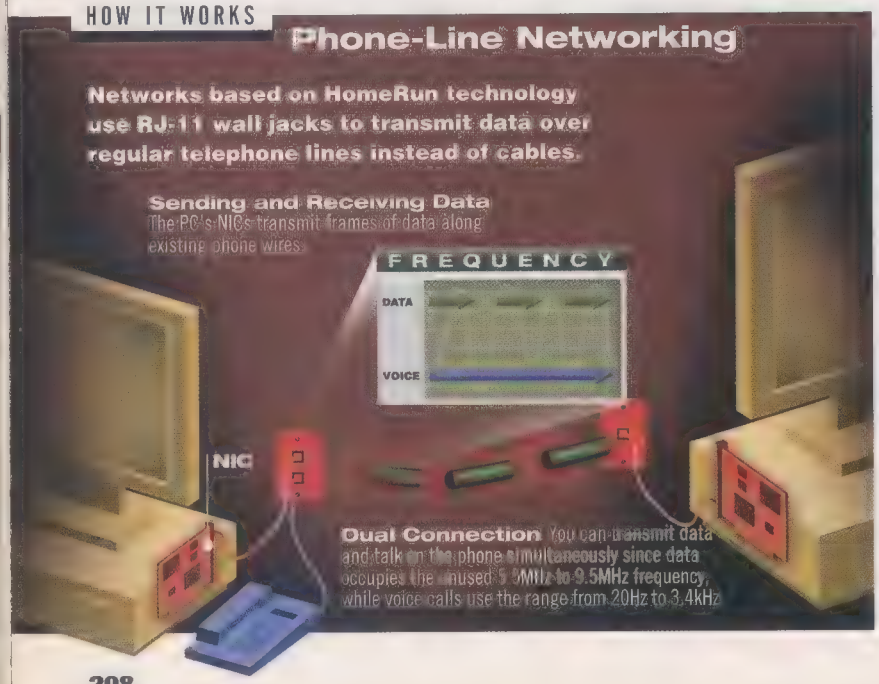
Tut Systems / (800) 998-4888 / $199 for NIC, $249 for adapter, est. street prices / *Enter 623 at www.pccomputing.com/infolink*

Also Consider **Choose the Intelogis PassPort for a network that works over electrical wiring. The PassPort doesn't even require you to install NICs. Just plug it into electrical outlets.**

HOW IT WORKS

Phone-Line Networking

Networks based on HomeRun technology use RJ-11 wall jacks to transmit data over regular telephone lines instead of cables.



Lab Notes Setting up a Tut Systems HomeRun network was simple: We opened up one machine, installed the HomeRun NIC, and plugged it into our electrical outlet. Next we installed the software drivers. On the other computer, we used Tut Systems' Ethernet adapter to connect to the PC's existing NIC. Performance was slower than with any Ethernet network we tested, but still a respectable 1Mbps.

Solve Dataline Power Problems with APC's ProtectNet Ethernet Surge Protectors

PNet1

One outlet protection for Network interface cards using 100Base-T, 10 Base-T or Token Ring.

ProtectNet units eliminate downtime due to keyboard lockups, damaged NIC cards and blown motherboards often caused by dataline transients.

PNet4

Protects multiple lines or rackmount applications for network interface cards using 100Base-T, 10 Base-T or Token Ring. (20 lines for 1 "U".)

Incorporating ProtectNet Ethernet dataline surge protection into your comprehensive power protection plan provides surge suppression on all potential paths to your computer equipment.

APC Smart-UPS® delivers unmatched network uptime and complete peace of mind

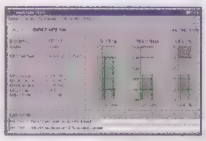
Protect ME! APC

Power problems attack networks relentlessly. To protect hardware and data from system crashes, experts, network managers and computer users worldwide prefer one solution above all others combined: APC Smart-UPS. Now, all 120V Smart-UPS include FREE PowerChute *plus* power management software.

The most reliable protection you can buy

Smart-UPS provide complete protection against power spikes, surges, brownouts, and blackouts. You'll also gain maximum server up-time and decrease management costs. Award-winning features include:

- CellGuard™ intelligent battery management monitors battery performance and extends battery life.
- SmartSlot™ internal accessory slot lets you customize and enhance the performance of your Smart-UPS.
- QuickSwap™ user-replaceable batteries can be quickly and safely swapped out without powering down connected equipment.



PowerChute® plus lets you manage all your Smart-UPS via SNMP, Web browser, and modem (with Call-UPS II).

Plan for and control crisis situations

PowerChute *plus* FlexEvents™ lets you control UPS reactions to power events. You can configure PowerChute *plus* to provide graceful, unattended server shutdown during an extended power outage or alert you to out-of-bounds environmental conditions before they result in costly downtime.

Web server and SNMP ready

APC's NEW WebAgent™ allows you to monitor and manage your Smart-UPS using your Web browser. PowerChute *plus* also includes the PowerNet™ SNMP Agent plug-in, which allows you to integrate your Smart-UPS with your existing SNMP management strategy.

Smart-UPS and PowerChute *plus* provide the complete solution in one convenient box. Server protection and peace of mind have never been easier.

FREE! server solutions kit.

Just mail or fax this completed coupon for your FREE Solutions guide for your server. Better yet, order today at:

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☐ **YES!** Please send my FREE Server Solutions Kit.

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Brand of UPS used? _____ # _____

Brand of PCs used? _____ # _____

Brand of Servers used? _____ # _____

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APC has won more awards for reliability than all other UPS vendors combined.

You've Got SPAM!

Diary of a Junk Mail Addict

BY RON WHITE

I am an e-mail junkie. I can't get enough of those stories circulated endlessly with a click of the Forward button—urban legends people swear are true, like the couple who adopted a dog that turned out to be a rat, or (my favorite) the guy who woke up in a bathtub full of ice with a kidney missing. And don't even get me started on the Neiman Marcus cookie recipe. My in-box is filled with this stuff—along with an occasional message from my editor reminding me about an overdue story.

But spam—now that's something else altogether. Spam is truly obnoxious. Yet intriguing. I've seen offers for everything from Porsche lotteries to cigar humidors, Australian wildlife refuges, no-interest home mortgages, virtual girlfriends, Beanie Babies, and Wyoming land perfect for militia maneuvers. I've even seen spam about how to stop spam. So when I got this assignment—to respond to as many spam offers as came my way, on *PC Computing*'s dime, of course—I jumped at it. Here's my diary.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ELIZABETH BRANDT

Day 1: The Setup

Enter Moorloch I cranked up my PC and opened an America Online account using the name L. L. Moorloch. First I filled out the AOL profile form, then I dropped into chat rooms specializing in finance and posted comments virtually begging someone to roll me. And to show I was willing to spend big-time, I ordered a Marvin the Martian T-shirt from the Warner Bros. Web site—$22.

Day 2: Skin Land

Intriguing Appointment The very first spam to hit my platter was smut. The most interesting thing about porn offers is the tricks they use to get you to open the messages. I just had to read one from Sally Long about "our appointment," but Sally's idea of an appointment is something I wouldn't write down in my day planner. And I could never get more out of messages like Sally's: Whenever I clicked on an X-rated link, I usually got a message from some straight-arrow Internet provider telling me the sex site had already been jerked. So to speak.

Day 7: ID Required

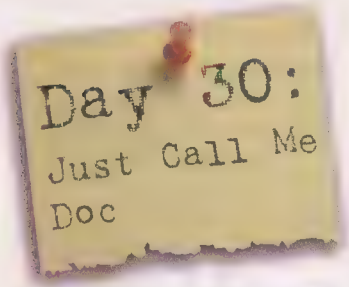
Card Shop *"Pssst,"* the next piece of spam whispered. "Need a new driver's license? Want ID for night clubs or hotel check-in?" I left a message at the phone number provided. The next day a droopy-sounding man named Sam called back. He said the offer was legit because of some United Nations treaty. Was I (1) 18 or older and (2) alive? Yes and yes. For $185, he would send me a very official-looking document someone might be stupid enough to fall for. All he needed was my bank account number—to make sure I could cover the check.

A week later a package arrived from the International Licensing Bureau in Middlesex, England. It included a driver's license with my fake name spelled wrong. Instructions told me where to sign and where to paste a mug shot before I laminated it. But there was also something that said $185 had already been withdrawn from my checking account, thank you. I checked, and the bank told me all anyone needs to get money from me is an account number. I don't even have to give permission. The bank will handle the dispute, and I'll probably get my money back. But I still felt violated.

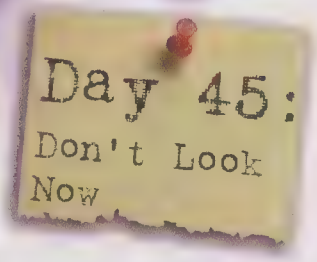
Day 15: Something Smelly

Babe Magnet I couldn't ignore this one: "Sexually attract women easily with nature's secret weapon." This offer was hawking

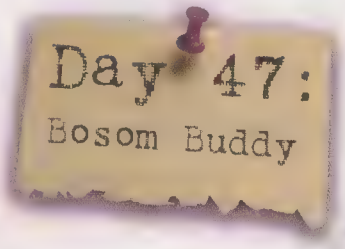
pheromones, which purportedly drive women wild—for just $40. I bit. A few days later, Moorloch got an e-mail message: His seductive smells were delayed because of high demand. After a couple weeks, the spammer's ISP kicked back my inquiry about my pheromones' whereabouts as an invalid address. And what am I going to do? Call Visa to complain about the charge on my bill—and have to tell some nice customer-service rep that I'm such a pathetic specimen of manhood that I need the aid of chemistry to get lucky? Right.



Instant Ph.D. After a month, I was getting pretty tired of the same old come-ons. But here was something more cerebral: an offer for diplomas from "non-accredited universities based on your life experience. No tests, no classes. No one is turned down." The "university placement counselor" I talked to said I could get a Ph.D. in electrical engineering for $425—an additional $90 for summa cum laude—despite the fact that I have problems installing many types of lightbulbs. The university would also supply a transcript for $200 more, and for another $100 would include a letter of recommendation from my favorite prof. That's just great—after I spent 15 years and thousands of dollars getting a degree, I could have had it all for less than a grand.



Internet Undercover
Finally—a message that didn't slobber over sex or money. "Are you being investigated?" the subject line asked provocatively. Something calling itself the Kennedy Center for the Free would sell me a report, *Sleuthing the Internet,* filled with tricks for cleaning up my credit and for legal and illegal snooping. How could I resist? I rang up another $55 on the plastic. A week later I received 30 photocopied pages, mostly on the secrecy level of the Library of Congress. Believe me, *PC Computing*'s regular roundups of Web secrets are a lot more revealing.



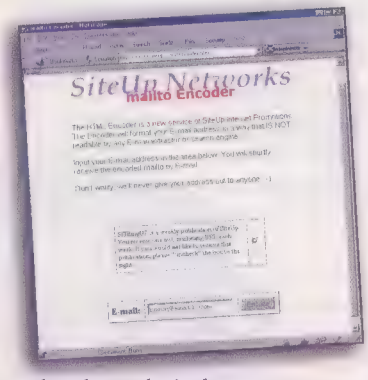
Uplifting Offer
Maybe I've given you the idea that all Internet spam is at best junk and at worst an outright con game. But not all spam is worthless. Responding to a message promising "fuller, firmer breasts," I plunked down $50 for a jar of Wonder Cream. And I must report that my breasts have never been fuller or lovelier.

Crossing the Line
Something put me over the edge. I was tired of offers for crispy microwave bacon cookers, affordable dental care, and screen savers that divine the future. When I got the next spam message, well, I guess I kinda cracked. This message was from a group at moveon.org, whose mantra was essentially "Chew out Clinton real good, drop impeachment, and let's get on with our lives." The spam wanted petition signatures and people to spread the word. Before you knew it, I went over to the other side. I crossed that delicate line between journalism and *Geraldo.* I sent copies of the message to the entire *PC Computing* staff. The victim turned predator. I became a spammer. No going back. In the end, spam won.

TOP 5 WAYS TO Squash Spam

1. Stay anonymous. Browsing the Web, using e-mail, and posting messages to newsgroups leaves you open to spam. Sometimes it seems that there's nowhere to hide from crafty junk e-mailers. But you can beat them at their own game. Spammers use e-mail robots called mailbots to collect addresses from newsgroups and the Web. Never add your address to Internet e-mail directories. If you find yourself listed in a directory like Bigfoot, ask to be removed immediately.

When you're on the Web, skip the e-mail address field in generic Web forms—or, if it's not crucial



that the Web site have accurate information, supply a dummy address. And don't use your personal address in e-mail links on your Web pages. Let people contact you at a general address, such as webmaster@mypages.com. You can also use a handy, free tool from SiteUp Networks called the Mailto Encoder (www.siteup.com/encoder.html).

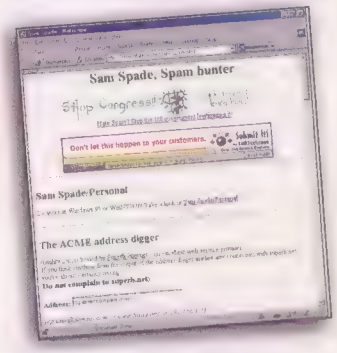
Sneaky would-be spammers can also find and track you with cookies—text written to a file called COOKIES.TXT on your hard drive. Set your browser to reject cookies. In some cases, however, you must accept cookies from a site for it to work properly.

2. Throw spammers off by using two e-mail accounts. Use one to receive mail from friendly, familiar sources. Use the other account for mailing lists, newsgroups, or Web forms. If your ISP won't provide a second address at no charge, get a free Web-based e-mail account, such as Excite Mail.

3. Scramble your address. If you must post public messages to newsgroups or Web boards, you can still limit the amount of junk sent to you by practicing address munging (also called spoofing). If you add uncommon characters or words to your outgoing e-mail address, your posts will confuse mailbots. For example, if your real address is joe@isp.com, a scrambled version would be joe_spambait@removethis.isp.com. Be sure to add instructions in your signature file that explain how to decode your address so you can receive legitimate replies.

4. Screen the junk. Your e-mail software's filtering tools can dispose of unwanted messages automatically. (Filter setup varies depending on your e-mail app.) Some guidelines: If a message doesn't include your correct e-mail address in the To: or Cc: field, trash it. Take note of the domains that frequently send you junk mail and block messages coming from them. Delete messages with subject lines in all capital letters and messages with a lot of dollar signs or exclamation points. And filter out messages with X-rated subjects as well as spammer-speak like *unsubscribe, X-priority, adv* (for advertisements), *bulk e-mail, authenticated sender,* or *make money fast.* Boost your e-mail app's spam-fighting power even more with an antispam utility (see "Top Spam Killers," page 218).

5. Never respond directly to a sender of junk mail, period. A reply alerts spammers that your address is active. Instead, complain to the ISP that hosts the spammer. Figuring out where junk originated can be tricky. Open the message header and look for IP addresses or domains within parentheses in the header's Received lines



(information outside the parentheses could be faked), then verify them using Acme Address Digger (www.blighty.com/spam/spade.html). Once you've identified the most likely target, visit the Network Abuse Clearinghouse (abuse.net) for the appropriate contacts and fire off a polite but firm letter requesting their help in stopping further spam.

BONNY L. GEORGIA

Project Scheduling Made Easy!

DON'T TELL MY BOSS

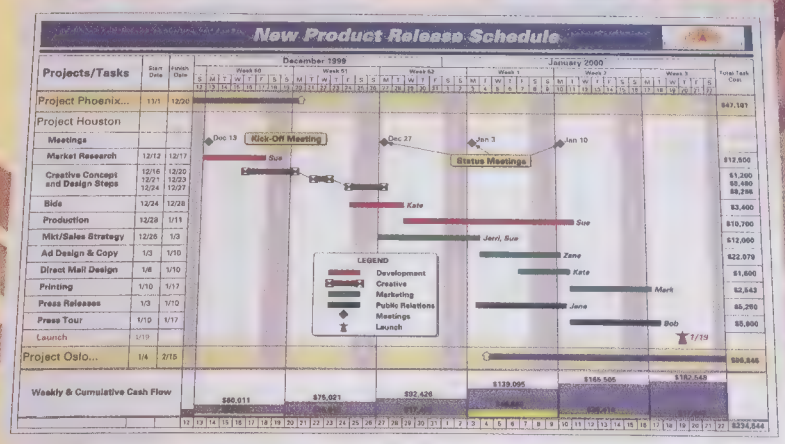
I'm not a project management expert, but everyone thinks I am. Most of my time is spent completing tasks, so I need a scheduling tool that's easy, fast, and flexible.

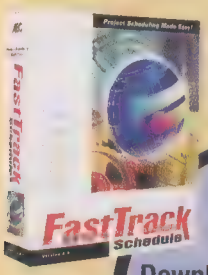
FastTrack Schedule 6.0 fits the bill. It keeps me organized and in control displaying all my project details in rich, colorful timelines. FastTrack Schedule provides just the right amount of power because it's more sophisticated than day-planners, but ***easier to use and half the price of traditional, high-end project managers.*** In a single schedule, I can outline multiple projects, make assignments, track cash flows, set-up dependencies—even add graphics like our company logo.

The presentation-quality schedules clearly illustrate project objectives and deadlines keeping team members and clients informed and up-to-date. Coworkers update their tasks across our Intranet, collaborate remotely, or use a FastSteps™ script to automatically export updated schedules directly to our client's web site.

Whether I use it once a week or every day, FastTrack Schedule makes project scheduling easy.

- SpellChecker
- Hyperlinks
- ExpressDate™ Pop-up Calendar
- Real-Time Internet Collaboration
- FastSteps™ Scripting
- Histograms





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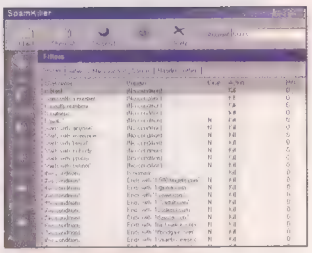
TOP SPAM KILLERS

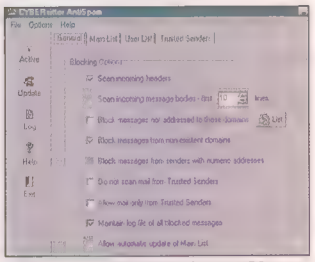
Ready to go to war against unsolicited e-mail? There are spam-slaying weapons for nearly every need and budget, and they're available for a free trial. Here are a few of our favorites. Get them all at www.pccomputing.com/getnow.

PRODUCT*	Price**	Verdict
PCComputing BEST Novasoft SpamKiller www.spamkiller.com *InfoLink No. 631*	$30	☆☆☆☆☆ Stop looking for an industrial-strength spam buster. You've found it with SpamKiller. Painlessly edit its 3,000 preset filters to keep your in-box junk-free. SpamKiller also combs all parts of an incoming message to determine whether it's worth your attention. Friendly addresses are safe from harm, and you can download free automatic updates.
Now Internet Tools SpammerSlammer (888) 669-8665 *InfoLink No. 632*	Free	☆☆☆☆ SpammerSlammer integrates effortlessly with several popular e-mail apps, rates suspected spam on a scale from 1 to 5 for easy filtering, and studies message headers for signs of trouble. What more do you want for free?
Softwiz Software Spam Attack Pro (800) 828-5295 *InfoLink No. 633*	$30	☆☆☆☆ This handy utility scrutinizes each e-mail message's header, body, and attachment against a list of more than 2,100 known junk mailers, along with extra rules you define.You can even read new mail from within the program without launching your e-mail software.
Solid Oak Software CyberSitter AntiSpam (800) 388-2761 *InfoLink No. 634*	$25	☆☆☆☆ Like Solid Oak's popular smut-blocking utility by the same name, CyberSitter AntiSpam puts the squeeze on unsolicited commercial e-mail. A host of user-defined options and an intuitive interface give you the power to decide what you download and what you dump.
Contact Plus Corp. Spam Buster (800) 366-9876 *InfoLink No. 635*	$20	☆☆☆ Give the boot to more than 15,000 known spammers before they clutter your mailbox. Never Filter lists ensure that important mail always gets through, but you can't check message contents for lurking junk.
Grok Developments Interceptor www.grok.co.uk/interceptor *InfoLink No. 636*	$28	☆☆☆ Interceptor sniffs out junk mail behind the scenes each time you connect to your ISP, filtering and eradicating spam according to rules you choose (though it can't peek at message contents to look for junk). A helpful log file saves details on rejected messages in the off chance you wish to resurrect them.
High Mountain Software SpamEater Pro www.hms.com/spameater.htm *InfoLink No. 637*	$20	☆☆☆ Any message whose sender matches SpamEater Pro's list of 5,000-plus junk mailers is deleted before you see it. The Interactive Checking tool lets you review message headers before SpamEater Pro starts chomping, but you can't filter on keywords or within message text.
Unisyn Software Spam Exterminator (888) 786-4796 *InfoLink No. 638*	$28	☆☆☆ Only legit mail makes it to your in-box, while junk mail goes to the trash, thanks to Spam Exterminator's custom-built rules and a list of 17,500 known junk mailers. View friend and foe alike before hitting the Delete key in the handy Mail Preview window. If only it imported friendly e-mail addresses from your address book.

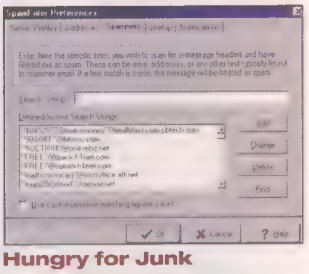
*FOR MORE INFORMATION GO [illegible] COMPUTING.COM/INFOLINK. **ESTIMATED STREET PRICE.



Trained Assassin SpamKiller's filtering options make trashing junk a snap. The longer you use it, the smarter it gets.



Cybersentinel CyberSitter AntiSpam lets e-mail from trusted sources in, but slams the gate on unwanted messages.



Hungry for Junk SpamEater Pro relies on its lengthy list of known spammers to gobble up unwanted e-mail garbage.

RATINGS: ☆☆☆☆☆ EXCELLENT ☆☆☆☆ GOOD ☆☆☆ ACCEPTABLE ☆☆ POOR ☆ UNACCEPTABLE

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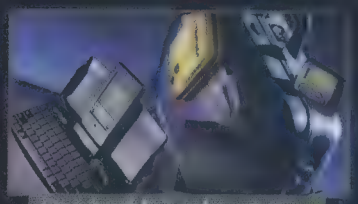


Souvenir baskets brimming with Vermont maple syrup. Aunt Flo's ceramic masterpieces. A 12-pound multimedia notebook loaded with the killer presentation.

Luckily for you, none of this clutter in the overhead bin is yours. You know that packing light—whether power suits or PCs—is the key to trouble-free travel. The trick is scaling down without making sacrifices.

PROBLEM

Travel is hell—especially when you're trying to get work done.

SOLUTION

Here's everything you need to take your office wherever you go.

If you need to check your e-mail and get all your messages on command, we have the best way to stay connected from anywhere. Can't afford to let wimpy battery life keep you from getting your work done? Choose a pocket-size PC that never runs out of gas. Want to squeeze your workload into the smallest package possible? There's a handheld PC that weighs less than your wallet. Or step up to a notebook replacement with a color screen and all the trimmings. Finally, if you do more typing than a legal secretary, we have a tiny PC that doesn't skimp on the keyboard.

BY LESLIE AYERS AND GORDON BASS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK JOHANN

CONNECT FROM ANYWHERE

When it comes to business travel, you're used to being stranded without a phone, AC outlet, or even a café that makes a decent cup of coffee. But your line of communication has to stay open. So cut the wires. Here's what you need to stay connected without actually being attached.

Find Yourself You lost? Never. Not when you have digital maps and the Earthmate GPS Receiver from DeLorme.
Earthmate GPS Receiver / DeLorme / (800) 452-5931 / $159 est. street price / InfoLink No. 649

Get the Message Share data between your AccessLink II pager and your Palm III wirelessly with BeamLink software from JP Systems.
AccessLink II / Glenayre / (800) [illegible] / $[illegible] est. street price / [illegible] / InfoLink No. [illegible]

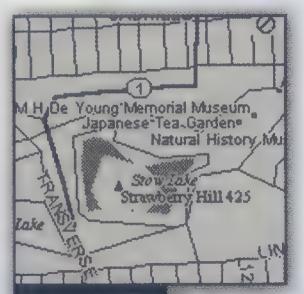
Look Ma, No Wires Impress your friends—and get your work done on the move—with Novatel's tiny wireless modem. And with service from GoAmerica, you can grab e-mail and browse the Web.
Minstrel Plus / Novatel / (888) 462-4600 / $19[illegible] est. street price / InfoLink No. 647

Your Type The GoType keyboard lets you pound out long e-mail messages and memos from the road.
GoType / [illegible] / [illegible] / InfoLink No. [illegible]

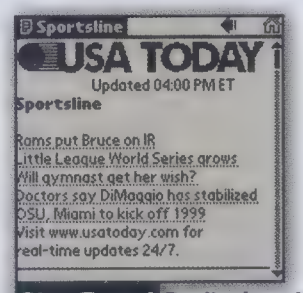
Mobile Office Small and sleek, the 6-ounce Palm III is perfect for anyone on the move. It's tops for wireless communications too.
Palm III Connected Organizer / [illegible] / (800) 381-7256 / $369 est. [illegible]

SOFTWARE ESSENTIALS

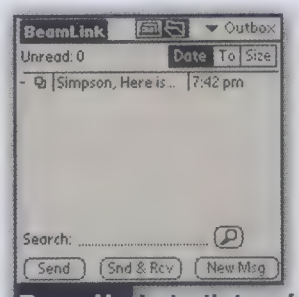
3Com Palm III Connected Organizer



Maps To Go Put DeLorme's Street Atlas USA 6.0 in the palm of your hand with Solus Pro ($39), which lets you download multiple maps to your Palm III.



Stay Tuned Don't miss a thing—whether it's news, sports, or files from your intranet. You can put that and more on your Palm III with AvantGo ($100).



Beam Up Instantly transfer e-mail and pager messages between your AccessLink II pager and your Palm III. JP Systems' BeamLink ($50) makes it possible.

NEVER RUN OUT OF GAS

Imagine driving round-trip from Manhattan to Miami without refueling. Electric cars make *that* possible, but what about your handheld PC? As your constant travel companion, it has to have enough charge life to keep you in business—without making you lug around a case of extra batteries.

Juiced Up Pop in fresh AA batteries and you're set. The 12.5-ounce Psion Series 5 works nearly 24 hours straight before it needs refreshing.

Psion Series 5 Psion (800) 997-7466, $499 (est. street price) *Infolink No. 552*

Portable Press You can always print from the Series 5 via a PC. But printing from the road is painless too, as long as you have access to a printer with an infrared port.

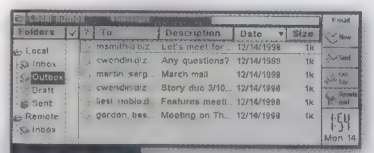
Key Points Sure, it's small. But the responsiveness of the Psion Series 5's keyboard will surprise you. You'll adapt to some oddly located keys—like the apostrophe where the comma usually is—a lot faster than you'd learn the special handwriting on a palmtop unit.

Calling Card For easy communications—and no drain on the Series 5's batteries—hook up the Psion Modem Bundle, a PC Card adapter with its own power source and a 33.6Kbps modem.

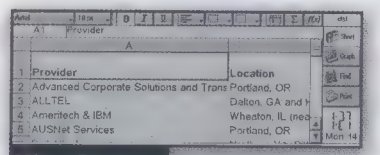
Psion Modem Bundle Psion (800) 997-7466, $[illegible]

SOFTWARE ESSENTIALS

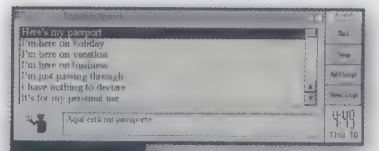
Psion Series 5



Web Suite Manage messages and browse the Web with the Series 5 Message Suite. No PC required. Download it for free at www.psion.com.



Nice Spread The Series 5's bundled spreadsheet app lets you create charts and complex worksheets that are compatible with Microsoft Excel.



Small Talk Don't speak Spanish? No problemo. Pop Berlitz's Phrasebook ($79) into the Series 5, and all the necessary phrases are at your fingertips.

For more product information go to www.pccomputing.com/infolink

THE SMALLER, THE BETTER

You've got traveling light down to a science—a couple of shirts, underwear, socks, and toiletries. The same goes for your handheld PC. You don't want just small; you want the tiniest computer possible that still lets you get real work done.

Good Memory Take your files with you on CompactFlash cartridges. Stock up on this storage from Simple Technology.

32MB CompactFlash Card / Simple Technology / (800) 367-7330 / $120 est. street price / *InfoLink No. 660*

Ultraportable Need to compose e-mail? Check stock quotes from the Web? Record a memo? Casio's 6.5-ounce Cassiopeia E-11 does it all. The optional modem ($130) snaps into the bottom for easy Internet access.

Cassiopeia E-11 / Casio / (800) [illegible] / $[illegible] est. street price / *InfoLink No. [illegible]*

Take Notes Ditch the tape recorder. Whatever your earth-shattering thoughts may be, the E-11's built-in microphone lets you record them for posterity.

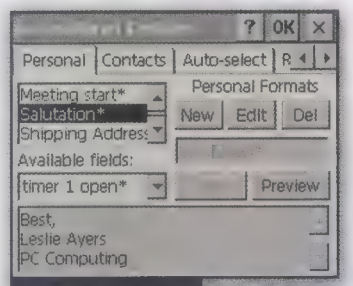
Survival Kit Keep your PDA in top shape with this indispensable collection. Protect your palmtop's screen by using the fingertip stylus instead of the pen.

PDA Survival Kit / Compact Kitchen / (888) 611-7322 / $[illegible] est. street price / *InfoLink No. [illegible]*

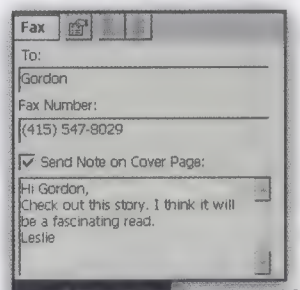
SOFTWARE ESSENTIALS

Casio Cassiopeia E-11

No Hands Use voice commands to open applications or files with Advanced Recognition Technologies' Pocket Commander, which is bundled with Casio's E-11.



Instant Access Create quick contact entries on your palmtop with Access Panel Platinum Edition from Developer One ($28). It's at www.developerone.com.



Just the Fax Stop searching for the nearest copy shop when you need to send a fax. Bsquare's bFax Express (free with the E-11) works directly from the Cassiopeia.

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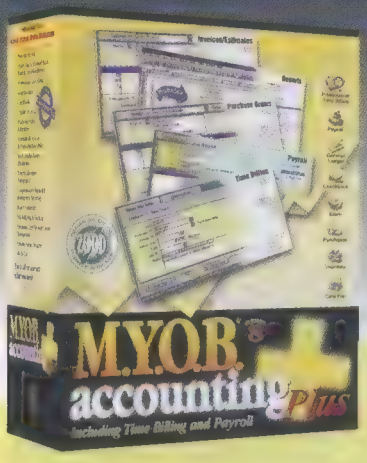

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TRADE IN YOUR NOTEBOOK

How you covet super-skinny notebooks: their feathery lightness, their slim lines—and, oh yeah, waiting for them to boot up and then watching the battery meter plunge into the red. But here's a better way.

Travel Companion If you bring one thing with you on your next trip, it should be Hewlett-Packard's Jornada 820, one of the first Windows CE Handheld PC Professional (aka Jupiter) devices. You get hours of battery life and instant-on. And it's just 2.5 pounds.

Jornada 820 Handheld PC / Hewlett-Packard / (800) 443-1254 / $999 est. street price

Well-Connected Check e-mail or log on to the network back home the conventional way. It's a breeze with the Jornada's built-in 56Kbps modem. And with its VGA and USB ports, presentations are a snap too.

Little Pal The Jornada's not small enough for you? Leave it in the hotel. Sync up all your vital contact information to the 1.4-ounce Rex Pro and hit the road.

Rex Pro [illegible]

Nonstop Action If the Jornada's 10 hours of battery life isn't enough, get the Extended Battery Pack for 1[illegible] more hours.

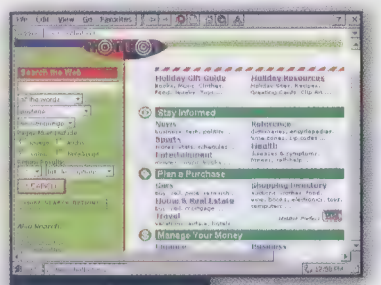
Extended Battery Pack [illegible] Hewlett-Packard [illegible] 443-1254 [illegible] $139 est. street price

No Wires Log on to the Web or check e-mail from poolside with a wireless modem. The boss will never know.

Wireless AirCard CE 300 for Windows Sierra [illegible]

SOFTWARE ESSENTIALS

Hewlett-Packard Jornada 820 Handheld PC



Pocket the Web Once you've seen the Web with Microsoft's free Pocket Internet Explorer and the Jornada's spacious screen, you'll be hooked.

Shoot and Share Don't wait to review your digital camera's pics: Download them to the Jornada with the bundled Sierra Imaging Image Expert CE.

Show Off Taking your show on the road? With the included Pocket PowerPoint and the Jornada's VGA port, give knockout presentations anywhere.

WORD PROCESSOR

You do so much word processing and document editing you're a textbook case of carpal tunnel syndrome. But taking your work on the road doesn't have to mean hand cramps: We have a setup that's both portable and touch-typable.

Portable Network Log on to the office LAN with Socket's Ethernet card especially for handheld PCs.

Low Power Ethernet PC Card

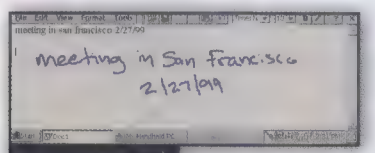
Log On The MobilePro 770's built-in 56Kbps modem means there's nothing extra to carry when you need to stay connected. Find a phone line and you're live.

Print from Anywhere

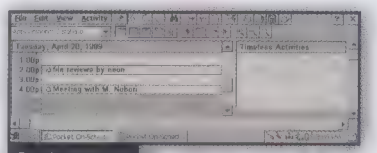
Keep It Up

SOFTWARE ESSENTIALS

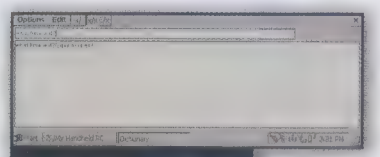
NEC MobilePro 770



Take a Memo Transform your chicken scratchings to typed text with ParaGraph's CalliGrapher 5.2 ($50 to download). It deciphers the worst handwriting—even cursive.



On Target Stay on top of all life's details—schedules, contacts, to-do lists, and more—with Odyssey Computing's Pocket On-Schedule 2.0 for Windows CE ($90).



Translation, Please Don't venture to a foreign country without Evolutionary Systems' Dictionary, a translation utility for Windows CE ($18).

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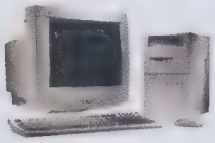
- Windows® 95

Monitor sold separately

$1114.35 CDW 113190

HEWLETT PACKARD HP Brio 7133MT

Expanding Possibilities



Monitor sold separately

- 300MHz Intel Celeron™ processor
- 128KB Level 2 cache
- 32MB SDRAM standard
- 2.1GB hard drive
- 32X Max CD-ROM drive
- 16-bit sound
- Windows® 98

$799.84 CDW 127279

IBM® ThinkPad® 600

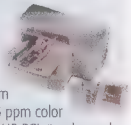
- 300MHz Intel Pentium® II processor
- 64MB RAM standard
- 6GB hard drive
- Internal DVD-ROM drive
- 13.3" active-matrix display
- 56Kbps (K56flex) modem
- Windows® 98
- 3-year limited warranty

$4329.69 CDW 129951

HEWLETT PACKARD HP 2500Cse

Expanding Possibilities

Professional Series color printer



- Plain paper drop-on-demand thermal inkjet printing
- Resolution: 600 x 600 dpi black on plain paper
- Print speed: up to 9 ppm black, best mode up to 3.5 ppm color
- 4MB RAM standard
- HP PCL 3 enhanced
- 1-year limited parts, labor; first year onsite warranty
- HP C2686A

$1249.00 CDW 138819

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333 Celeron 32MB 8.4GB 1161.74
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Deskpro EP Series towerable desktops
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333 Celeron 32MB 4.3GB 744.57
333 Celeron 64MB 6.4GB 32X 1032.61
350/PII 64MB 4.3GB 1128.34
350/PII 64MB 10GB 32X 1438.50
400/PII 64MB 10GB 32X 1553.76
450/PII 64MB 10GB 32X 1688.17
Deskpro EP Series Solutions for Small Business
300/PII 32MB 4.3GB 24X 1267.38
350/PII 64MB 6.4GB 24X 1395.72
400/PII 64MB 6.4GB 24X 1510.75
Deskpro EN Series desktops
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350/PII 64MB 10GB 10/100 ....1588.24
400/PII 32MB 6.4GB 1360.22
400/PII 64MB 6.4GB 24X 10/100 ....1693.55
400/PII 64MB 4.3GB 24X 10/100 ....1998.75
450/PII 64MB 10GB 10/100 ....1935.48
Deskpro EN Series mini-towers
300 Celeron 32MB 3.2GB 32X 1032.61
333 Celeron 32MB 6.4GB 32X 1184.76
333 Celeron 32MB 6.4GB 32X 10/100 ....1258.64
333/PII 32MB 6.4GB 24X 10/100 ....1398.42
350/PII 32MB 6.4GB 24X 10/100 ....1529.41
350/PII 64MB 4.3GB 24X 10/100 ....1898.45
400/PII 64MB 9.1GB 24X 10/100 ....2279.57
450/PII 64MB 6.4GB 32X 10/100 ....1849.46
450/PII 64MB 9.1GB 32X 10/100 ....2413.98
Presario desktops
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IBM

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333 Celeron 32MB 3.2GB 899.75
333/PII 32MB 3.2GB 1139.46
350/PII 32MB 3.2GB NT 1136.42
350/PII 64 3.2GB NT 1119.80
350/PII 32MB 3.2GB 1015.99
400/PII 64MB 6.4GB NT 1249.05
450/PII 64MB 6.4GB NT 1578.33
PC 300PL Series desktops
350/PII 64MB 6.4GB 32X 10/100 NT 1523.05
350/PII 32MB 4.2GB 10/100 Win 98 ....1369.53
400/PII 64MB 6.4GB 32X 10/100 NT 1569.62
450/PII 64MB 6.4GB 32X NT 1868.36
PC 300GL Series mini-tower
333 Celeron 32MB 3.2GB Win 98 ....918.57
350/PII 64MB 6.4GB 32X NT 1352.36
400/PII 64MB 6.4GB 32X NT 1373.12
PC 300PL Series mini-towers
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450/PII 64MB 6.4GB 32X 10/100 NT 1898.56

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333 Celeron 64MB 8GB 32X 1047.78
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333/PII 32MB 4.3GB 32X 1186.95
400/PII 64MB 8GB 32X 1639.43
450/PII 64MB 8GB 32X 1798.32
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300 Celeron 32MB 3.2GB 10/100 ....937.53
HP VE Series mini-towers
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300 Celeron 32MB 3.2GB 32X 978.76
HP VL Series desktops
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450/PII 64MB 10.1GB 32X 10/100 ....2148.23
HP VL Series mini-towers
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266/PII 32MB 4GB 24X 1129.43
300/PII 32MB 4GB 24X 1169.15

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110CT 233MMX 32MB 4.3GB Win98 ....1698.68
100CT 166/MMX 32MB 2GB 7.1" AM 1448.78
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4000CDT 233/PII 32MB 4.1GB 12.1" AM 1596.56
4010CDS 266/PII 32MB 4.1GB 12.1" DS 24X 1498.68
4010CDT 266/PII 32MB 4.1GB 12.1" AM 24X 1798.88
4020CDT 300/PII 64MB 6.4GB 13.3" AM 24X 2649.86
Tecra notebooks
8000CT 233/PII 64MB 4GB 12.1" AM 24X 2398.94
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8000CT 300/PII 64MB 6.4GB 13.3" AM 24X 3347.56
8000CT 300/PII 64MB 6.4GB 14.1" AM 3817.23
Portege notebooks
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7000CT 266/PII 32MB 4.3GB 12.1" AM NT 2648.98
7000CT 266/PII 32MB 4.3GB 12.1" AM 2559.89
7010CT 300/PII 32MB 4GB 12.1" AM 3098.98
7010CT 300/PII 32MB 4.3GB 12.1" AM NT 3189.99

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502DX 266/MMX 32MB 4.1GB 12.1" DS 20X 1328.48
502T 266/MMX 32MB 4.1GB 12.1" AM 20X 1498.38
710DX 233/PII 32MB 2.1GB 12.1" DS 1529.06
710T 233/PII 32MB 3.2GB 12.1" AM 1898.94
710TE 233/PII 32MB 4.1GB 13.3" AM 2088.58
711TE 266/PII 32MB 4.1GB 13.3" AM 24X 2378.68
712TE 300/PII 64MB 6GB 13.3" AM 2838.32

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Prosignia 100 notebooks
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266/PII 32MB 4GB 13.3" AM 24X 2348.58
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Armada notebooks
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1700 233/PII 32MB 4GB 12.1" AM W98 ....1997.37
1700 233/PII 32MB 4GB 12.1" AM W95 ....1998.68
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OmniBook 2100 233/PII 32MB 4GB 24X 2155.65
OmniBook 7150 300/PII 64MB 8.1GB 14.1" AM 4797.67

IBM

ThinkPad notebooks
390 233/MMX 32MB 3.2GB 24X 12.1" AM 1696.56
390 233/PII 32MB 3.2GB 24X 12.1"AM 1897.67
390 266/PII 64MB 4.3GB 24X 14.1"AM 2449.96
380Z 233/PII 32MB 4GB 13.3" AM 24X 1828.28
380Z 300/PII 32MB 4GB 13.3" AM 24X 2348.68
380Z 300/PII 32MB 4GB 13.3" AM 24X NT 2448.58
380Z 233/PII 32MB 4GB 13.3" AM 24X NT 1929.89
560Z 233/PII 32MB 4GB 12.1" AM 2376.29
560Z 300/PII 64MB 6.4GB 12.1" AM 3288.68
600 233/PII 32MB 3.2GB 13.3" AM 24X 2738.30
600 266/PII 32MB 4GB 13.3" AM 24X 3476.56
770X 300/PII 128MB 8.1GB 13.7" AM DVD 4898.55
770X 300/PII 128MB 8.1GB 13.7" AM DVD NT 4997.67

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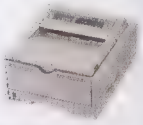
C350 266/PII 32MB 4GB 13" DS 20X 1599.00
E330 233/PII 32MB 3.2GB 12.1" AM W95 ....1779.13
E330 233/PII 32MB 3.2GB 12.1" AM W98 ....1774.48
E330 233/PII 32MB 3.2GB 12.1" AM NT 1967.56
E335 233/PII 32MB 3.2GB 13.3" AM W95 ....1896.44
E335 233/PII 32MB 3.2GB 13.3" AM W98 ....1896.44
E335 233/PII 32MB 3.2GB 13.3" AM NT 2085.54
E340 266/PII 32MB 4GB 13.3" AM W95 ....2268.98
E340 266/PII 32MB 4GB 13.3" AM W98 ....2268.98
E340 266/PII 32MB 4GB 13.3" AM NT 2458.68
E350 300/PII 32MB 5GB 13.3" AM W95 ....2549.76
E350 300/PII 32MB 5GB 13.3" AM W98 ....2549.76
E350 300/PII 32MB 5GB 13.3" AM NT 2738.88

OKI Okipage 12i



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CISCO

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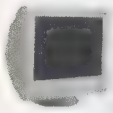
Diamond Pro 900u



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AGFA

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333/PII 64MB 10/100 Ethernet rack-mount.....4197.65
400/PII 128MB 10/100 Ethernet.....4392.74
450/PII 128MB 10/100 Ethernet.....4719.54
450/PII 128MB 10/100 Ethernet rack-mount.....5278.65
450/PII 256MB 10/100 Ethernet 3x4GB, array model.....9522.47

HEWLETT-PACKARD

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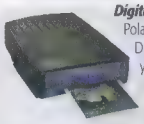

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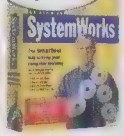

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Help

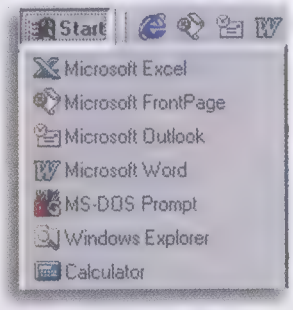
Have Win98 Your Way

There's no arguing that Windows isn't perfect out of the box. Fortunately, you don't have to settle for the default desktop configuration settings Windows chooses for you. With just a few simple steps, you can speed up everyday tasks, find programs and shortcuts faster, create a look and feel that work best for you, nix a few bugs, and make Windows operate as efficiently as possible. Here's how to make Windows better right now.

1. Kill the Active Desktop If you installed Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 or Windows 98, you were offered the Active Desktop as an option. If you answered yes, change your mind immediately. Active Desktop is buggy, slow, and prone to crashing. To nix it, right-click on the desktop, choose Active Desktop, and uncheck View As Web Page.

Step 1 If you chose the Active Desktop when you installed Windows 98, switch it off and stick with the more stable standard desktop.

2. Move the Taskbar Next try moving the Windows Taskbar—did you even know you could? Normally it sits at the bottom of the screen, but you can move it to either side or to the top. Click on an empty part of the Taskbar and drag it across the screen. When you place the Taskbar on the sides of the screen, often the buttons look strange. But it's convenient to have the Windows Start button cascade down instead of up.



Step 2 Move the Taskbar. Try putting it at the top of the desktop with the Start menu dropping down.

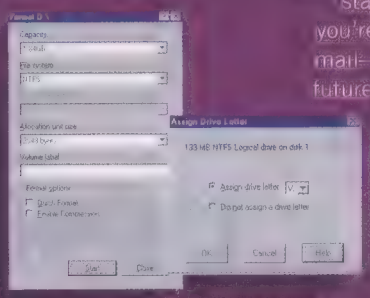
3. Beef Up Quick Launch In Win98 you'll notice a collection of icons next to the Start button. That's your Quick Launch bar, which you use to start your most commonly used programs. You don't have to settle for the applications Windows puts there. To add a program, go to Explorer and drag any program icon to the Quick Launch bar. Right-click on an icon and choose Delete if you want to remove it. To change the icon, right-click on it and choose Properties, then Change. We recommend putting Internet Explorer, Microsoft Word, FrontPage, Outlook, and Explorer on your Quick Launch bar.

Step 3 Add your favorite apps to the Quick Launch bar by right-clicking on the icons or by dragging new icons to it.

4. Add Desktop Toolbars If you have a high-resolution monitor that runs at 1,280 by 1,024

Inside Help

How It Works So long, analog. Digital displays are brighter and sharper. Here's why. 234



NT Drive Maintenance Windows NT's Disk Administrator takes the guesswork out of adding a new hard drive 232

Woody's Workshop Ever feel like your life is over when your e-mail goes down? Here's how to stay connected when you're cut off from your mail—and how to avoid future problems 238

REGISTRY HACKS RENAME THE RECYCLE BIN

It's not as easy to rename the Recycle Bin as it is to rename other desktop icons. But if you venture into the Registry, you can do it.

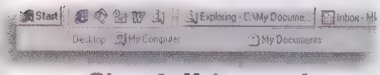
Step 1 First, and this is extremely important, back up the Registry. That way if you make a mistake, you need only restore this file to get your system back to normal.

Step 2 Bring up REGEDIT by clicking on the Start button. Select Run, type *regedit*, and hit Enter.

Step 3 Navigate to HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\CLSID\{645FF040-5081-101B-9F08-00AA002F954E}. Double-click on the Default key and enter your new name for the Recycle Bin.

Step 4 Exit REGEDIT. Click on the Recycle Bin icon and press F5 to make the name change appear on the desktop.

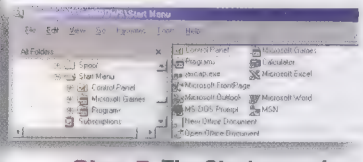
or higher, make the Taskbar bigger than just one line. Click on the edge of the Taskbar (the mouse pointer will change to arrows pointing in opposite directions) and drag it away from the screen edge; the Taskbar will grow as much as you let it. This works for Windows 95, 98, and NT,



Step 4 Make room for more toolbars and program icons on your Taskbar by pulling down the edge.

but in Win98 the larger size gives you a chance to sample some of the extra toolbars. Right-click on an empty part of the Taskbar, click on Toolbars, and choose from the options. You can also create your own toolbar from any folder on your hard drive.

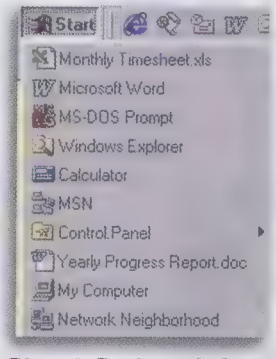
5. Clean Up the Start Menu Every program you install clamors for your notice among icons and folders on the Start menu. Take charge. Right-click on the Start button and choose Explore. You'll see that the Start menu is just a series of shortcut files and folders. Rearrange and



Step 5 The Start menu is made up of shortcuts in the Start Menu folder. Make changes by editing the folder directly in Explorer.

rename them any way you like, put common programs on the first menu list, and add extra folders.

6. Add to the Start Menu Also put your most frequently used documents on your Start menu. Find a document in Explorer and drag it to the Start button, turning it into a shortcut



Step 6 Don't settle for the defaults. Add frequently used documents and programs to the Start menu.

icon for quick access. Open the Dial Up Networking folder and drag your most commonly used URLs to the Start menu too. Put My Computer and Network Neighborhood on the Start menu so you don't have to minimize all the open windows to find them on the desktop.

7. Customize the Start Menu Add some smarts to the Start menu so you can immediately get to key items in various special folders instead of opening a window each time. To do so, create shortcuts in your Start Menu folder with special names. Here is a list of the special folder names; copy them exactly and completely, including hyphens. There's a period after the name of the folder, before the curly bracket. As you create each one and press Enter, the section in brackets will disappear from the screen—that's normal.

Briefcase.{85BBD920-42A0-1069-A2E4-08002B30309D}
Control Panel.{21EC2020-3AEA-1069-A2DD-08002B30309D}
Desktop.{00021400-0000-0000-C000-000000000046}
Dial-Up Networking.{992CFFA0-F557-101A-88EC-00DD010CCC48}
Fonts.{BD84B380-8CA2-1069-AB1D-08000948F534}
My Computer.{20D04FE0-3AEA-1069-A2D8-08002B30309D}
Network Neighborhood.{208D2C60-3AEA-1069-A2D7-08002B30309D}
Printers.{2227A280-3AEA-1069-A2DE-08002B30309D}
Recycle Bin.{645FF040-5081-101B-9F08-00AA002F954E}

8. Revamp Desktop Icons Change the name of generic desktop icons. For example, right-click on the My Computer icon, choose Rename, and change it to your machine's network name. This helps easily define which machine you're working with. You can rename Internet Explorer, Network Neighborhood, and My Briefcase. However, you can't easily rename some icons, like Recycle Bin (to learn how to do that, see "Registry Hacks," above). Change the desktop icons by right-clicking on the desktop and choosing Plus (if you have NT 4 or Windows 95 with Plus pack) or Effects (Windows 98).

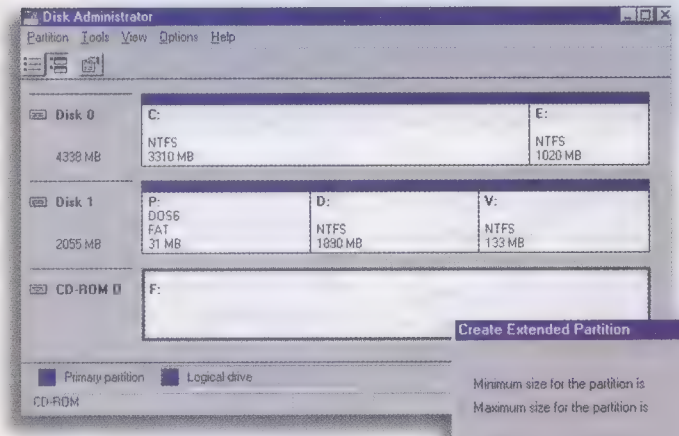
Peter Deegan is the editor of Woody's Windows Watch (WWW), a free electronic newsletter that covers topics like the ones you see here. Subscribe to WWW by sending a blank message to www@wopr.com. **Edited by** Liesl La Grange Noble.

By Ed Bott

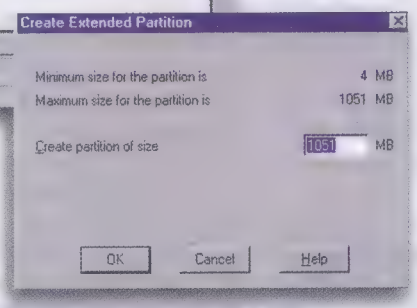
For more Windows NT and Win98 news, head to www.pccomputing.com/getnow

Easy NT Drive Maintenance

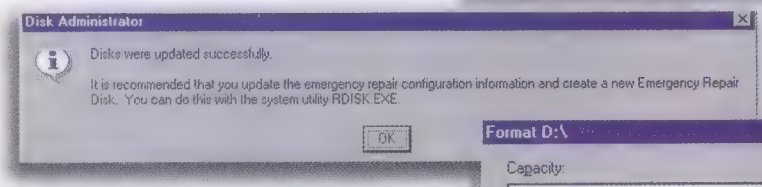
One of Windows NT's least appreciated utilities is the Disk Administrator, which handles all formatting and partitioning chores as well as a host of other administrative tasks; the only thing it can't do is resize an existing partition. If you want to add a new hard drive or change existing disk partitions, this utility is the best place to start. You'll find it in the Administrative Tools (Common) group—just remember to log in with administrative privileges first.



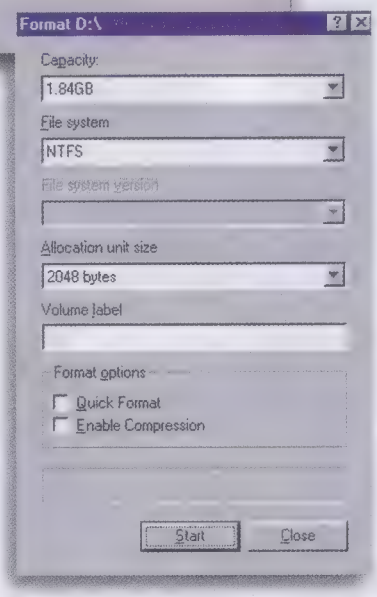
Step 1 The main data display gives you an overview of all local disks, showing the size and type of partitions plus any free space.



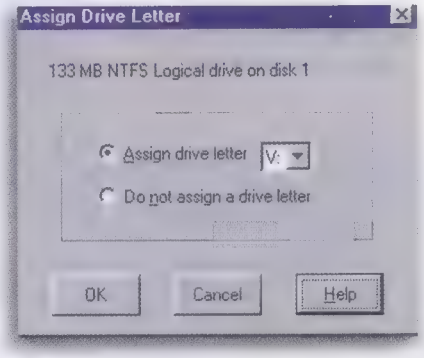
Step 2 To create a partition from free space on the disk, right-click on the free-space bar and select the primary or extended option. If you create an extended partition, you'll need to right-click again and use the Create menu to add one or more logical drives.



Step 3 After creating a partition, right-click on the partition bar and choose Commit Changes Now. You'll see this confirmational dialog box.



Step 4 Right-click again and click on Format, then choose a disk format and other options.



Step 5 Finally, to hard-wire a drive letter for any volume, right-click and choose Assign Drive Letter. Be careful with this option—because you can't assign drive letters to hard disk partitions under DOS and Windows 95, you'll have to plan carefully on dual-boot systems.

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By Ron White
Illustration by Timothy Edward Downs

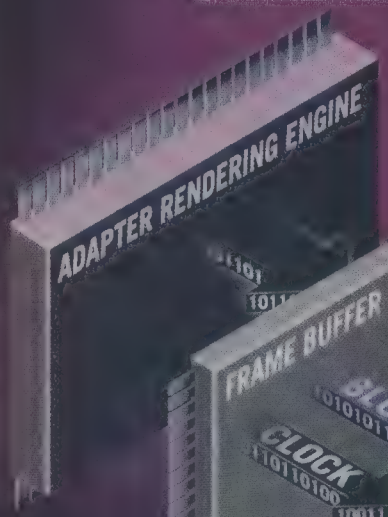
Ron White is the author of *How Computers Work*, Fourth Edition, published by Que (ISBN 0789700288). Illustrations by Timothy Edward Downs.

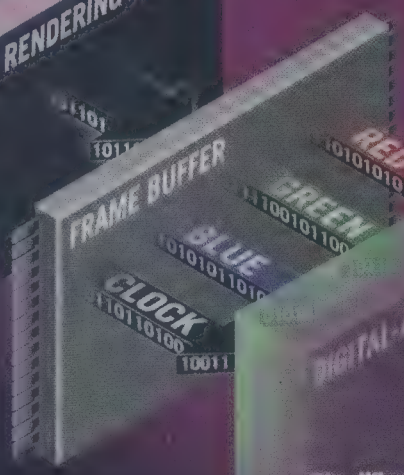
Digital LCDs

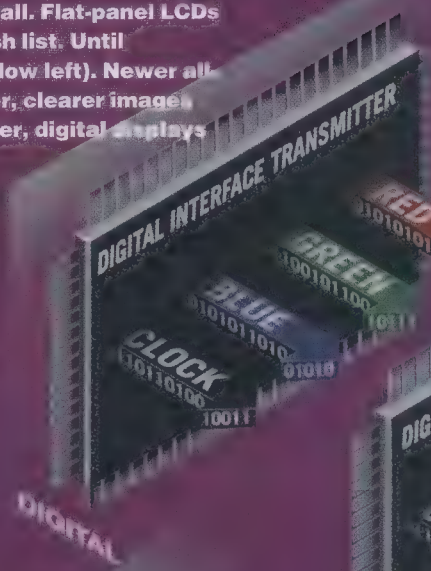
They're sleek, they're bright, and they're trim enough to hang on a wall. Flat-panel LCDs are on every warm-blooded gadget lover's wish list. Until recently, most desktop LCDs were analog (below left). Newer all-digital displays (right) deliver sharper, brighter, clearer images by eliminating steps in the process. Even better, digital displays are cheaper.

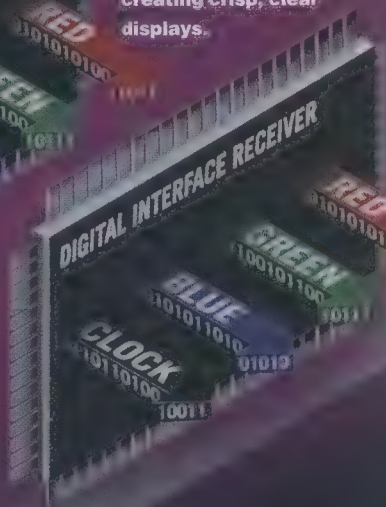
1. Both analog and digital LCDs start with the graphics card's adapter rendering engine, which assigns values for pixels color intensity. The card assembles the values in the frame buffer of fast memory so it's passed quickly to the display.

2. All-digital LCDs replace the digital-to-analog converter (DAC) and analog-to-digital converter (ADC) with a digital interface transmitter that passes the original digital information to a receiver—creating crisp, clear displays.

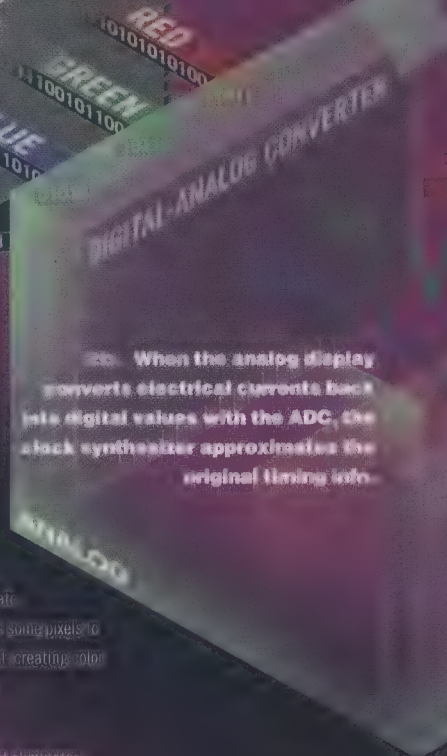




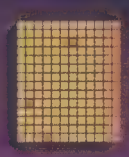




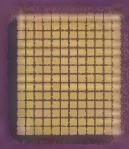
2a. In an analog display, the DAC changes the buffer's values into varying streams of electricity. Unfortunately, it eliminates the timing signal for making electrons hit each pixel, which can lead to color and image distortions.



2b. When the analog display converts electrical currents back into digital values with the ADC, the clock synthesizer approximates the original timing info-



Analog Inaccurate synchronization causes some pixels to fire when they shouldn't, creating color and image distortions.



Digital Because it eliminates synchronization errors, an all-digital display is more accurate, particularly at high resolutions on large displays.

A LESSON IN SHARING

6

Great reasons to share your CD/DVD-ROMs

Six great reasons to share CD/DVD-ROMs

on your network with AXIS StorPoint CD

1 *It'll do wonders for your bottom line*

You know how valuable CD-ROM content is — databases, sales data, reference materials, parts catalogs and much more. But when these resources are stashed away on a CD-ROM on somebody's desk, they're out of reach.

When you put CD-ROMs on the network, you get a lot more use out of them.

You can ensure that the CDs your users access are the same — and everybody doesn't need their own copy. No more out-of-date versions of key information. Now everybody can get to the same data, even at the same time. Just like data that resides on a file server.

At last, all of the data on all of your CD-ROMs is only a click away for all of your users.

2 *You can declare independence from your file server*

The traditional way of sharing CD-ROMs on a corporate network — the file server — means s-l-o-w performance. Just as it's inefficient to share printers using an application server, your file server can be overtaxed trying to manage access to an externally-attached CD tower. If your file server goes down, your CDs go down with it. So what do you have for all that expensive software?

With AXIS StorPoint CD, you attach CD towers directly to your Ethernet or Token Ring network. So you can literally be up and running, sharing CDs and DVDs across the enterprise in a matter of minutes.

3 *So reliable it'll make you a hero*

The benefits of sharing CDs are clear. But choosing the right connectivity platform from the right CD-ROM tower vendor can mean the difference between smooth sailing or getting tangled in a protocol and networking jungle.

Axis provides connectivity to most of the major CD-ROM tower vendors on the market. So no matter whose Axis-based product you buy, you can be assured thousands of companies on virtually every type of network have made Axis the tried-and-true solution.

4 *Easy for you*

Installing an AXIS StorPoint CD-ROM tower won't take you all day. All you need is an IP address and a physical connection to your Ethernet, Fast Ethernet or Token Ring network. That's it.

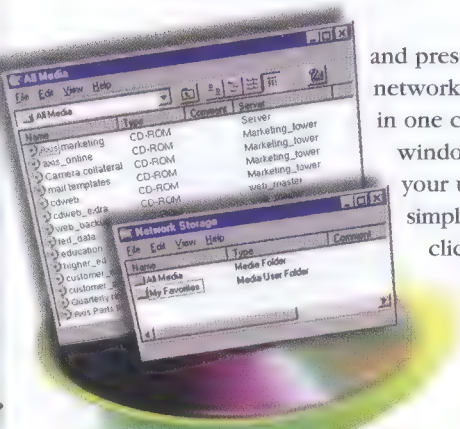
Whether you're in a Novell, NT, UNIX or Intranet/Internet environment, or running TCP/IP or SMB, your CD-ROM drives are on line in just a couple of minutes.

No software for any file server. No lengthy installation process. No parameters to set. It all happens automatically.

5 *Easy for your users*

Once your CD-ROMs are on the network, your users want to access specific CDs without hassles and without referring to a network roadmap.

Thanks to optional AXIS StorPoint DISCO client software, all CD/DVD-ROMs are only a mouseclick away. AXIS StorPoint DISCO automatically gathers



and presents all networked media in one convenient window — so your users simply point and click to open any CD, regardless of where it resides.

No more time wasted looking for CD or DVD titles on the network. No new interface to learn. AXIS StorPoint DISCO makes sharing multiple CDs across the enterprise — even hundreds of them — a breeze.

AXIS StorPoint CD is scalable with StorPoint DISCO, so your users can always find the CDs they're looking for, no matter how many reside on your network.

6 *The backbone — ThinServer™*

Axis' ThinServer Technology is the backbone of all Axis products, providing the capability to turn any CD/DVD-ROM drive into a network resource. ThinServer Technology is comprised of "thin" versions of the most popular network operating systems, Web management tools and Axis' own ETRAX 32-bit RISC processor — streamlined and optimized for device connectivity independent of any file servers.

And Axis makes sure you're always ready for new technology and new opportunities, with new product announcements, flash upgradable code and new releases that are available on the Web.

THIN SERVER TECHNOLOGY

AXIS® COMMUNICATIONS

Complete Integrator Solutions

Axis is the top-ranked manufacturer of CD and DVD-ROM connectivity for 7- and 14-bay CD-ROM tower solutions.

Using the AXIS StorPoint CD, our many integrator partners provide a variety of complete tower solutions and service levels.

For a complete listing, see our Web site at
http://ads.zdnet.com/micro/axis

AXIS StorPoint CD Helps Create Secure Information Availability

PanCanadian Petroleum's senior technology management analyst Jim Enjeneski seeks new, cost-effective ways to make information available. That's why he's become so interested in Axis Communications' StorPoint CD.

"I use AXIS StorPoint CD to distribute digital pictures and movies from my cameras," says Enjeneski. "These CDs are created on my desktop and then made accessible to anyone with a Web browser."

StorPoint's flexibility has helped Enjeneski build a new, secure information distribution capability at PanCanadian.

"I've produced temporary Web sites and placed them on a CD. StorPoint is then connected to the Internet, outside our firewall. Because CD is a nonvolatile medium, many of the security concerns of hosting a Web site have been eliminated," he notes.

"I place CDs containing conference notes on the StorPoint server and use my Netscape Compass server to index the entire CD content. So clients can search and find these CD publications."

Other uses for AXIS StorPoint CD are emerging at PanCanadian, too.

"A client can't hack into a StorPoint CD tower, so we use it to test unsecured communications services," says Enjeneski. "Testing an ATM connection or a line from our cable provider is made easier by plugging StorPoint directly into the router instead of a PC-type server or firewall. Then we can conduct basic performance and connectivity tests."

Sounds like Enjeneski and his colleagues have only just begun to find powerful ways to put the AXIS StorPoint CD to work.

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SHARES WELL WITH OTHERS

{one CD, one company, 300 employees, 6 platforms, 10 offices worldwide}

San Francisco 9:35 p.m.

bob olsen – North American Sales Manager

A couple of clicks of the mouse and Bob finds the disk and pulls the sales data his boss needs. Thanks to Axis' ThinServer™ Technology, he doesn't even know the data was on a server in Stockholm. From his desktop, Bob has simple, one-point access to his company's AXIS StorPoint CD towers all over the world. Which is great, since his boss doesn't like to wait.

Boston 12:35 p.m.

kelli walton – Marketing Communications Specialist

While Bob is doing his research, Kelli opens her "favorites" folder on her PC desktop and is instantly connected to the same disk on the same AXIS StorPoint CD tower in Stockholm. But Kelli doesn't know or care about that. She just knows she needs customer data for an ad campaign she's planning. Within seconds, she's got what she needs.

Stockholm 6:35 p.m.

tony catlin – IT Manager

Same time, different time zone. Tony gets a call at home. Somebody reported a problem getting data from the CD-ROM tower in Stockholm. But Tony doesn't have to leave home because his networked CD-ROM tower has Axis' Thin Server Technology inside. With an Internet connection and his web browser, Tony fixes the problem with his kid on his lap.

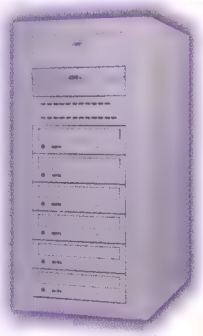
AXIS StorPoint™ CD is the simple solution for networking CDs and DVDs.

No more looking around for CDs and DVDs. No more waiting your turn. Now with StorPoint CD/DVD-ROMs can be shared quickly and easily by multiple users around the world or down the hall. With our new hard disk caching capability, you can find information over the network faster than ever. Our ThinServer-based AXIS StorPoint CD is now used in virtually all premier CD-ROM towers. Ask if it's inside the tower you're thinking about buying.

Learn more about AXIS StorPoint CD, our flexible caching solution, and how it simplifies the way you do business. Visit our website today. While you are there, register to win **FREE** product, and more!

http://ads.zdnet.com/micro/axis

AXIS COMMUNICATIONS



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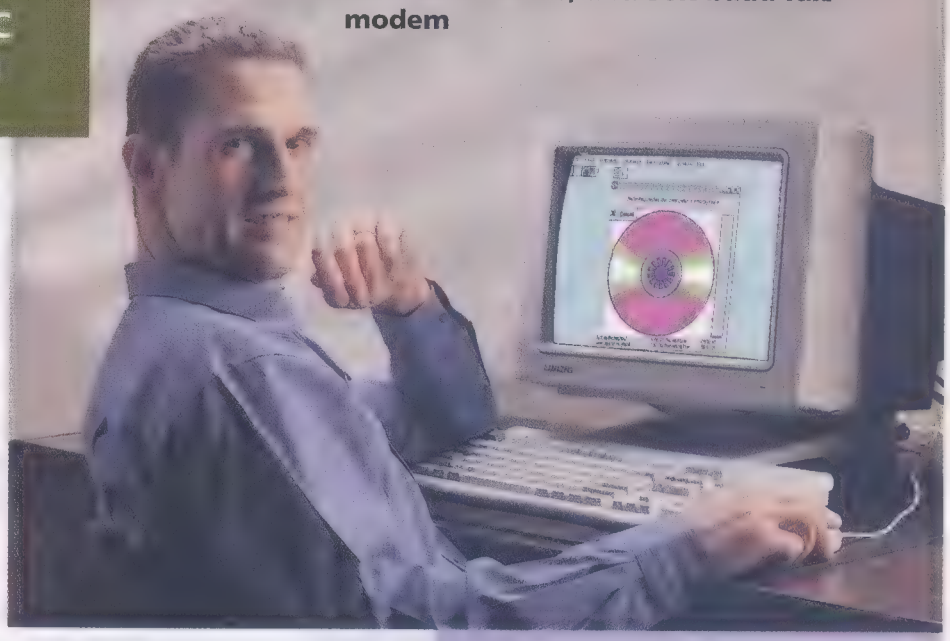

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you can get the practical skills and experience to service any computer with confidence. From diagnostic software to CD-ROM tutorials to a high-end computer system, NRI gives you the technological tools and training you need to carve out a successful new career, even start a business of your own!

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- Troubleshooting training—includes McGraw-Hill's easy-to-follow guides on troubleshooting and interactive computer-aided electronics diskettes relating to four key areas: AC electronics, DC electronics, semiconductors, and electronic circuits.

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Foolproof E-mail

E-mail is great—until it goes down and you can't get any work done. Sometimes the problem lies in your e-mail software; sometimes it's your ISP. Regardless, if you can't get to your e-mail, you're cut off from the outside world and your business is in trouble. Here's how to troubleshoot the worst e-mail problems and stay connected.

By Woody Leonhard

For more answers, head to www.pccomputing.com/getnow

Test Your E-mail Connection Suspect your e-mail is stalled? Send messages to friends and ask them to reply. But that gets tiring for friends and the response can be slow. Instead, try sending a message to yourself first. It should go out to your Internet provider and come back in less than a minute. Check that the incoming message has the right name and e-mail address in the FROM section.

Forward Your Mail Companies like Bigfoot (www.bigfoot.com) offer a free lifetime e-mail address. Bigfoot doesn't store your e-mail; it's just a forwarding address. Give out your Bigfoot address to everyone and have Bigfoot redirect that mail to whatever mail account you're currently using. If your mail account fails, just change the Bigfoot setting to another one and senders will never notice the difference.

The Right Address Make sure you set up your outgoing e-mail with the correct reply address. In Outlook choose Tools, Services, and select your Internet mail service. Under the General tab, change the e-mail address and/or the reply address.

Watch Your Back If your ISP goes down or stops your account, you lose your e-mail connection. Consider separating your e-mail POP service and/or your e-mail address from your dial-up connection service. That way, if your main dial-up connection fails, you can get to your e-mail through another provider. Having a separate e-mail address also means you can change ISPs without sending out change-of-address notices.

Emergency Account Having a Web-based e-mail account like www.hotmail.com, www.zdnetmail.com, or www.amexmail.com is essential. If all else fails, you can log in with just a Web browser from any machine to send and receive mail.

Bad Attachments Receive a confused message with a garbled attachment? This often happens in companies when the corporate mail system does not handle Internet mail attachments properly. A Web-based e-mail account can get around this problem, so ask the sender to forward the attachment to your Web mail account, then download the file from there.

Outlook Express to the Rescue If your e-mail software is on the fritz, try another program. A good standby is Outlook Express, which comes with Internet Explorer. Besides a great price (free), Outlook Express gives comprehensive progress reports and error messages during mail transfers that are invaluable for tracing a problem. Even if you don't understand the error messages, your ISP should be able to help.

Leave on Server If you're using a secondary e-mail account while your primary one is out of commission, make sure you select the Leave on Server option. (In Outlook Express you'll find this option under the Advanced tab for Internet mail service). This way you can gather and read mail temporarily, but when you get your normal e-mail software working all your messages will still be in your in-box.

INSIDER TIP EASY E-MAIL TEST

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID PERRY

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Excel Expertise

Are you getting screwy numbers? Afraid of losing data? Take control of your spreadsheets with these Microsoft Excel power tips.

Find Mistakes A common mistake is to put a fixed number instead of a formula into a cell. To find such mistakes, change the display from showing cells to showing formulas, using the Ctrl + ` [the lower case of the tilde (~) key] shortcut to switch between the modes.

Make Cell Comments You never know who will be trying to make sense of your worksheet down the road. Make full use of the cell comments feature (Insert, Comment) to explain formulas, what results should mean, and any special situations that apply. Note any unusual values with an explanation that indicates you have checked and double-checked your work.

Trace Your Cells If you're trying to find a problem or decipher someone else's work, use the auditing toolbar (Tools, Auditing, Show Auditing Toolbar). Click on a cell and choose Trace Precedents to see the cells used to create the result. Trace Dependents shows you the cells that rely on the current cell for part of their result. Have Excel's Data Validation settings mark all invalid data cells with the Circle Invalid Data option.

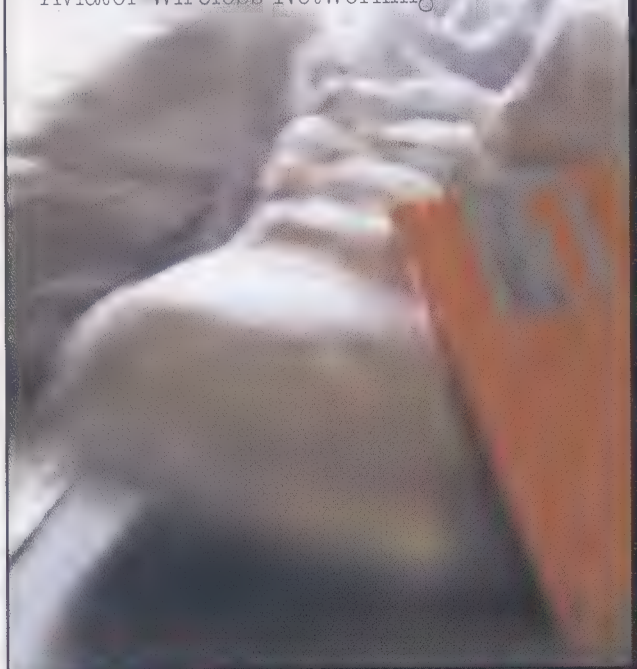
Save Versions As You Go If you're making changes to an established worksheet, keep a copy of the original. Compare the old results with the new ones to see if they are consistent. And if you get confused while making the changes, you can always go back to the original and start over.

Get an Overview Use simple graphs to get an overview of a list of values. For example, a graph of weekly sales figures will quickly reveal any values that are unusually high or low. Check any unusual values for data-entry or calculation errors. Again, use the cell comments feature to attach notes to any exceptional numbers.

Protect Yourself If you're sharing a worksheet, prevent others from accidentally (or deliberately) altering cells by blocking changes. You can protect each cell individually by selecting Format, Cells, Protection, Locked. Uncheck the box for any cells you want to let people change. The cell-protection setting is activated only when you choose the Tools, Protection option. Take this precaution before you send or share your master work.

Be Y2K Safe Excel 97 is mainly Y2K ready, but lots of small new-millennium problems are waiting to catch the unwary. Confirm that all date entries work as you expect them to. Change date displays to show a four-digit year. Take extra care if your worksheets rely on external data sources—check to make sure the program that creates the incoming data converts it as it should.

sneakernet (sne'ker net) an ancient practice of sharing files and printers via foot and floppies before the advent of Aviator Wireless Networking



Until recently, sharing files and printers between two or more personal computers involved jogging from one PC to another with a floppy disk in hand—helpful if you couldn't make your aerobics class, but otherwise not a very productive way to spend your time.

Fortunately, things have changed. Installing an Aviator Wireless Network in your home or small office is so simple that even most kids can do it. No wires to deal with, no confusing networking hardware to configure. Instead, just plug an Aviator Wireless Networking module into the parallel port on each of your computers, install the Aviator software, and start sharing files and printers. Unbelievably easy.

Aviator uses radio technology to transfer files and print jobs between your computers and operates between them at a distance of up to 125 feet, indoors or out. Aviator Wireless Networking also enables your home PC users to share a single modem and phone line so everyone can surf the Net, access email, or just chat with friends—all at the same time. And if you're a computer gaming fanatic, enjoy playing your favorite PC games in multi-player mode across an Aviator Wireless Network.

Let WebGear make your life easier with an Aviator Wireless Network in your home or office. And save your sneakers for the gym where they belong.

PC Computing November 1998

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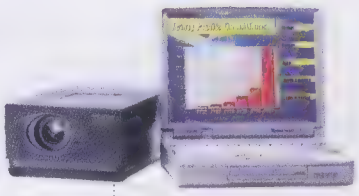

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FEATURES	DesignCAD Pro 2000	AutoCAD R14	AutoCAD LT 97	TurboCAD Pro V5	IntelliCAD 98
NUMBER OF 3D PRIMITIVES	12	11	0	3	11
TEXTURE MAPPING OF 3D OBJECTS	YES!	YES	NO	NO	YES
VRML EXPORT	YES!	NO	NO	YES	NO
3D SURFACE BENDING	YES!	NO	NO	NO	NO
HIDE SELECTED EDGES ON 3D SOLIDS	YES!	YES	NO	NO	YES
ANIMATION MODE	YES!	NO	NO	NO	NO
DRAW 3D SURFACE INTERSECTION	YES!	YES	NO	NO	NO
MOVE CURSOR IN 3D SPACE BY KEYBOARD	YES!	NO	NO	NO	NO
3D SYMBOLS INCLUDED	YES!	NO	NO	YES	NO
ANTI-ALIAS SHADING	YES!	YES	NO	NO	YES
AUTO-WELD MANY SHAPES TO ONE PERIMETER	YES!	NO	NO	NO	NO
CUT ONE PLANE FROM ANOTHER	YES!	YES	NO	NO	YES
MULTIPLE VERSIONS OF DXF & DWG EXPORT	YES!	YES	YES	NO	YES
AUTO-TRACE BMP TO DRAWINGS	YES!	NO	NO	YES	NO
VISIBLE NUMBERED SYMBOL HANDLES	YES!	NO	NO	NO	NO
DIGITIZER TRACING SUPPORT	YES!	YES	YES	NO	NO
DIRECT TWAIN SCANNER SUPPORT	YES!	NO	NO	YES	NO
ZOOM ALL VIEWS TO OBJECT SELECTION	YES!	NO	NO	NO	YES
PANELING: MULTI-PAGE PRINTOUTS TO SCALE	YES!	NO	NO	YES	NO
UNLIMITED FREE TECH SUPPORT	YES!	NO	NO	YES	NO
MULTIPLE DOCUMENT INTERFACE	YES!	NO	NO	YES	YES
FAST VIEW REDRAW OPTIONS	YES!	YES	NO	YES	YES

BEST OF COMDEX

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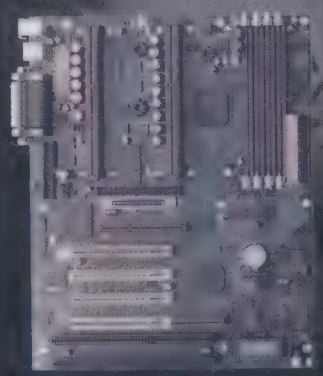
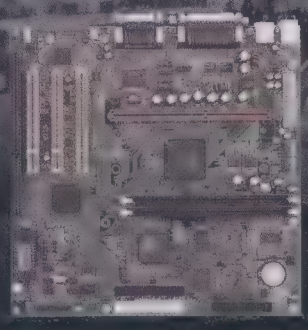


ATC-6260 440BX DP SCSI M/B



ATC-6510 440EX Micro ATX M/B

PC'97 Approval

ATC-6120 ATC-6220
ATC-6130 ATC-5030

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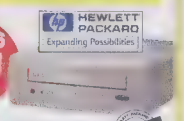

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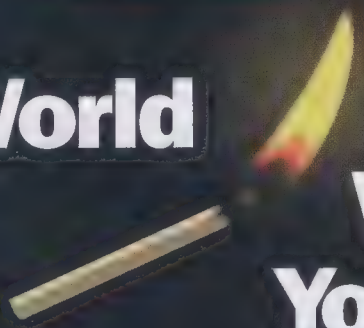

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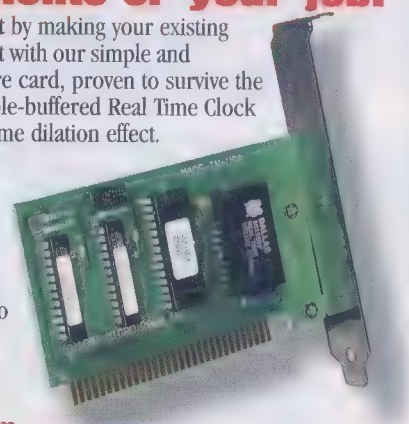

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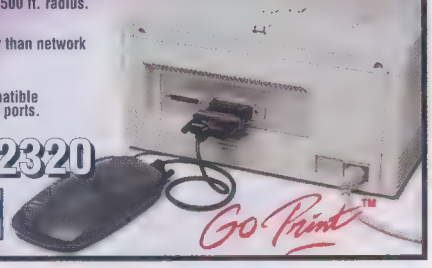

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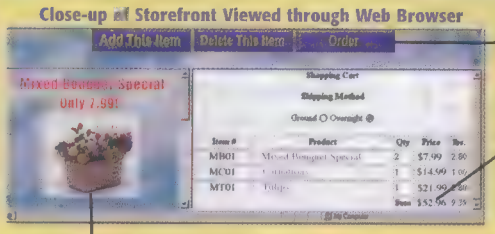

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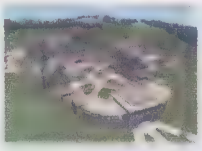

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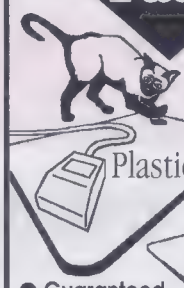

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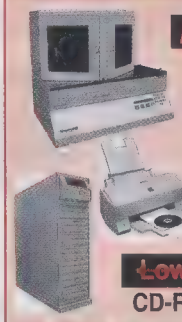

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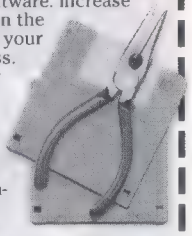

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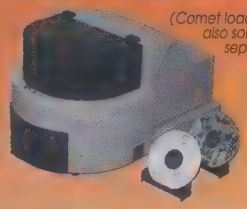

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Intel Pentium II	350MHz	64MB	6.4GB	$1089.99	(CTLTM11)
AMD K6-2	400MHz	128MB	10.2GB	$1129.99	(CTLTM37)
Intel Pentium II	400MHz	96MB	10.2GB	$1339.99	(CTLTM12)
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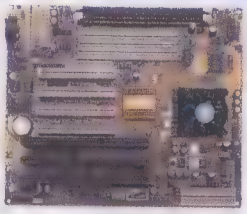


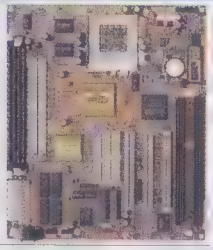
Motherboard & Case: Motherboard mounted in dual-cooling fan case; 200 Watt power supply, cable & manual. Sound and video.

Pre-Assembled Kits: Motherboard in dual-cooling fan case; 200 Watt power supply, keyboard, speakers, mouse, microphone, 56KFlex fax/modem, 1.44MB floppy drive, 24X CD-ROM. Sound and video on board.

Tiger 571 Motherboard Features At-A-Glance

Form Factor: **Baby AT** | On Board Video: **4MB** | ISA Slots: **3**
Processor: **Socket 7** | On Board Audio: **YES** | Memory: **DIMM or SIMM**
Bus Speed: **Up to 83MHz** | PCI Slots: **4** | Max Memory: **384 MB**

Tiger 590 AT AGP Super Socket 7



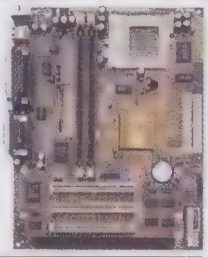
Motherboard & Case: Motherboard mounted in dual-cooling fan case; 200 Watt power supply, cables & manual

Pre-Assembled Kits: Motherboard in dual-cooling fan case; 200 Watt power supply, keyboard, speakers, mouse, microphone, 3D AGP video, 56KFlex fax-modem, 1.44MB floppy drive, 24X CD-ROM, Wave Table sound.

Tiger 590 Motherboard Features At-A-Glance

Form Factor: **AT** | On Board Video: **8MB AGP** | ISA Slots: **2**
Processor: **Super Socket 7** | On Board Audio: **YES** | Memory: **DIMM or SIMM**
Bus Speed: **Up to 100MHz** | PCI Slots: **3** | Max Memory: **256MB**

Tiger 596 Micro-ATX Socket 7



Motherboard & Case: Motherboard mounted in dual-cooling fan mini case; 140 Watt power supply, cables, manual

Pre-Assembled Kits: Motherboard in dual-cooling fan mini case; 140Watt power supply, keyboard, speakers, mouse, microphone, 64-bit video, 56KFlex faxmodem, 1.44MB floppy drive, 24X CD-ROM, Wave Table sound.

Tiger 596 Motherboard Features At-A-Glance

Form Factor: **Micro ATX** | On Board Video: **4MB PCI** | ISA Slots: **1**
Processor: **Socket 7** | On Board Audio: **YES** | Memory: **DIMM**
Bus Speed: **Up to 83MHz** | PCI Slots: **3** | Max Memory: **256 MB**

Tiger 767 AT, 760 ATX Slot 1

Motherboard & Case: Motherboard mounted in dual-cooling fan case; cables & manual

Pre-Assembled Kits: Motherboard in dual-cooling fan case; keyboard, speakers, mouse, microphone, 3D AGP video, 56KFlex faxmodem, 1.44MB floppy drive, 24X CD-ROM, Wave Table sound.

Tiger 767 Form Factor: **AT** • CPU: **Slot 1** • Bus Speed: **Up to 100 MHz** • On Board Video: **8MB AGP** • On Board Audio: **YES** • PCI Slots: **4** • ISA Slots: **1** • Memory: **DIMM** • Max Memory: **768 MB**

Tiger 760 Form Factor: **Micro AT X** • CPU: **Slot 1** • Bus Speed: **Up to 100MHz** • On Board Video: **8MB AGP** • On Board Audio: **YES** • PCI Slots: **3** • ISA Slots: **1** • Memory: **DIMM** • Max Memory: **768 MB**

Motherboard Design	Processors Supported	MOTHERBOARD ONLY Item No.	1-2 units	3+ units	MOTHERBOARD & CASE Item No.	1-2 units	3+ units	PRE-ASSEMBLED KITS Item No.	1-2 units	3+ units
Tiger 571 AT including Wave Table sound and video	**AMD** Up to K6-300 & K62-266 **Intel** Pentium up to 233 MMX **IBM/Cyrix** Up to PR300	MB1-C-1B	$77.99	$69.99	BB1-C-1B Mid-tower AT case with 200-Watt power supply	$124.99	$114.99	KT1-C-1B	$219.99	$202.99
Tiger 590 AT Super Socket 7 with AGP Technology and SoundPro Sound	All **AMD** Up to K62-400; **Intel** Pentium up to 233 MMX; **IBM/Cyrix** up to MII 350	MB1-E-4A	$87.99	$79.99	BB1-E-4A Mid-tower AT case with 200-Watt power supply	$139.99	$128.99	KT1-E-4A	$229.99	$211.99
Tiger 596 Micro-ATX Socket 7 with Sound & Video; 512KB Pipelined Burst cache	All **AMD** Up to K62-266; **Intel** Pentium up to 233 MMX **IBM/Cyrix** up to MII 350	MB1-E-3A	$77.99	$69.99	BB1-E-3A Micro ATX case with 140-Watt power supply	$109.99	$99.99	KT1-E-3A	$199.99	$183.99
Tiger 767 AT Slot 1	**Celeron** up to 333MHz **Intel** Pentium II up to 450MHz	MB1-E-5A	$99.99	$91.99	BB1-E-5A AT Case 200 W Power Supply	$154.99	$142.99	KT1-E-5A	$249.99	$229.99
Tiger 760 Micro ATX Slot 1	**Celeron** up to 333MHz **Intel** Pentium II up to 450MHz	MB1-E-6A	$99.99	$91.99	BB1-E-6A Micro ATX Case 140W Supply	$139.99	$128.99	KT1-E-6A	$239.99	$220.99

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#CP2-K62-380	380 3DNow!	$153.99	$146.99
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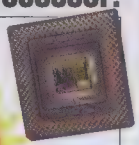
IBM/Cyrix MII



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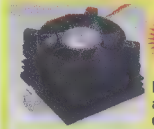

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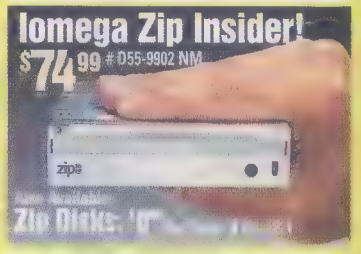

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CA-C-1A	**AT Case 9-Bay** 200WPwr. Sup.	$49.99
CA-C-2A	**ATX Case 6-Bay** 235WPwr. Sup.	$59.99
TCA-M-5A	**ATX Server 6-Bay** 300W Pwr. Sup.	$99.99

CYW

Infolink 250 at: www.pccomputing.com/infolink

By Leslie Ayers

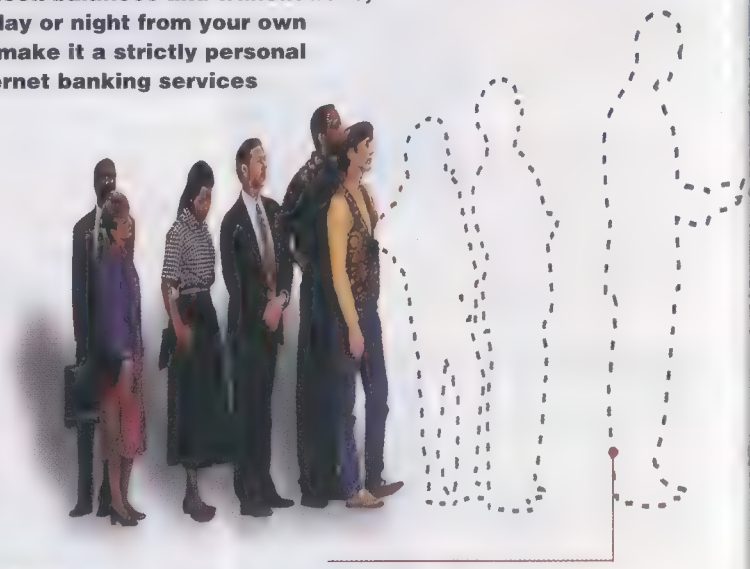
Enter next month's I-Poll at www.pccomputing.com/getnow

Do you bank online?

One-third of you shun the teller line at your financial institution's local branch, preferring instead to do your banking online. And why not, especially when you can check balances and transactions, transfer money, pay bills, and update accounts day or night from your own comfy desk chair? Most of you who bank online make it a strictly personal affair (87 percent), while the rest of you use Internet banking services for both home and business.

What services do you use?

For 35 percent of you who bank online, it opens an electronic window on your accounts. Another 23 percent of you transfer money between accounts online, and 19 percent pay bills electronically. The biggest motivation? Most of you said convenience: no lines, no stingy business hours, and no snooty tellers. A recent CyberCash study found that 28 percent of respondents think online bill payment beats licking stamps any day.



33%

You skip long waits at the bank and don't mess with paper statements. You do your banking on the Internet instead. How convenient.

How can online banking get better?

Gamblers and investors know you have to spend money to make money. But why does that have to be the case with online bill payment? Twenty-one percent of you would much rather see that option offered free (most banks charge a monthly fee of $5 to $10). Just as many of you wish banks would update balance and other account information online in real time.

If you don't bank online, what would change your mind?

You wouldn't buy a Lexus and leave it parked, unlocked, with the keys inside. Twenty-nine percent of you feel the same about your money: You'd bank online only if you knew security was foolproof. Twenty-three percent think online banking should be free. Nineteen percent said your banks don't yet offer an online option. Don't expect that to change either. Jupiter Communications forecasts that online banking will account for a mere 18 percent of the market by 2002. Find out more in "Internet Banking Gets Real," page 198.

SWEEPSTAKES!

Nope, no his and hers watches. These are prizes you can use: keyboard and mouse sans wires from Logitech, and small-business accounting made easy from BestWare. Enter to win at www.pccomputing.com/getnow.

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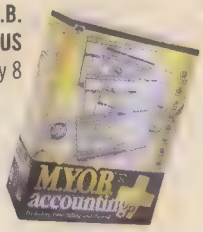

No purchase necessary to enter. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. Open to U.S. residents only. To enter, go to www.pccomputing.com/getnow. Entries must be received by January 25 for the Logitech prize; by February 8 for the BestWare prize. Complete rules are available at www.pccomputing.com/getnow.

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- 3D Surround Sound and Hardware Wavetable
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- 40X Max≈ Variable CD
- 3Com USRobotics V.90 Telephony WinModem
- Trial Offer ConnectDire Access
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- 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- Removable Combo 2X DVD-ROM Drive and Floppy Drive
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI RAGE Pro 3D Video
- Internal 56K Capable™ V.90 Fax Modem
- Trial Offer ConnectDirect Internet Access

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- 40X Max≈ Variable CD-ROM Drive
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- 3Com 3C905B 10/100 NIC
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- 512KB Integrated L2 Cache
- 8.4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 17" (15.9" viewable) 1000LS Monitor
- 8MB ATI 3D AGP Graphics
- 40X Max≈ Variable CD-ROM Drive
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- Logitech First Mouse+ Wheel (PS/2v)

★ *Upgrade to 96MB 100MHz SDRAM, add $69.*

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★ *Upgrade to a 17" (15.9" viewable) 1000LS Monitor, add $59.*

★ *Upgrade to 3-Year Next-Business-Day On-site^ Service, add $99.*

★ *Iomega Zip 100MB Internal Drive with Two Cartridges, add $99.*

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DELL PRECISION™ WORKSTATION 410 PENTIUM II PROCESSOR AT 450MHz

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ware Wavetable ◆ 12-Cell Intelligent Lithium Ion Battery ◆ S-Video Port ◆ MS Office 97 Small
◆ MS Windows 98 ◆ Touchpad ◆ 3-Year Limited Warranty† **Common features for Inspiron**
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0 Upgrade Offer) ◆ MS Windows 98 ◆ Touchpad ◆ 3-Year Limited Warranty†

D300LT R AT 300MHz

Performance
Display
Max*)
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Max^^ Variable
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Pro 3D Video
90 Fax Modem
ct
AM, add $99.
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add $99.

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o., 36 Mos.
2467-890128

DELL INSPIRON 3500 D266GT PENTIUM II PROCESSOR AT 266MHz

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- 4.3GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- NeoMagic MediaMagic 256AV AGP Video
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★ *Upgrade to a 6.4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive, add $149.*

★ *Second Intelligent Lithium Ion Battery, add $129.*

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E•VALUE CODE: 02467-890123a

DELL INSPIRON 3500 D233XT PENTIUM II PROCESSOR AT 233MHz

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- *NEW* 19" (18" viewable, .26dp) Trinitron P990 Monitor
- 16MB STB nVidia TNT 3D AGP Graphics Card
- 4.8X DVD-ROM Drive and Decoder Card
- Turtle Beach Montego II A3D 320V Sound Card
- *NEW* ADA880 Dolby Digital Speakers with Subwoofer
- Iomega Zip 100MB Internal Drive
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- Dell QuietKey Keyboard
- MS IntelliMouse

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- 128MB 100MHz SDRAM
- *NEW* 17.2GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- *NEW* 21" (20.0" viewable, .26dp) M1110 Monitor
- 16MB STB nVidia TNT 3D AGP Graphics Card with STB PCI TV/FM Tuner
- 4.8X DVD-ROM Drive and Decoder Card
- Turtle Beach Montego II A3D 320V Sound Card
- *NEW* ADA880 Dolby Digital Speakers with Subwoofer
- Iomega Zip 100MB Internal Drive
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LL INSPIRON NOTEBOOKS FOR HOME

mon features for Inspiron 3500: ◆ 3D Surround Sound and Software Wavetable ◆ NeoMagic MediaMagic 256AV AGP Video ◆ Intelligent Lithium Ion Battery ◆ MS Windows 98 uchpad ◆ 3-Year Limited Warranty[1] **Common features for Inspiron 7000:** ◆ 3D Surround Sound and Hardware Wavetable ◆ Intelligent Lithium Ion Battery ◆ MS Windows 98 uchpad ◆ 3-Year Limited Warranty[1] **Upgrades:** Canon BJC-50 Portable Printer, add $349 ◆ Targus Defcon Notebook Alarm, add $49 ◆ APC Notebook Surge Protector, add $29

W DELL INSPIRON 3500 D233XT
TIUM II PROCESSOR AT 233MHz

.3" XGA Active Matrix Display
MB SDRAM
2GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
odular 24X Max^^ Variable CD-ROM
odular 3.5" Floppy Drive
S Works Suite 99 with Money 99 Basic
ternal 56K Capable™ V.90 Fax Modem
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- 64MB SDRAM
- 4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
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- Internal 56K Capable™ V.90 Fax Modem
- Trial Offer ConnectDirect Internet Access
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- 96MB SDRAM
- 6.4GB Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- Removable Combo 2X DVD-ROM Drive and 3.5" Floppy Drive
- 2X AGP 8MB ATI RAGE Pro 3D Video
- Internal 56K Capable™ V.90 Fax Modem
- Trial Offer ConnectDirect Internet Access
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INTEL CELERON PROCESSOR AT 333MHz
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- harman/kardon HK-195 Speakers
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- Dell QuietKey Keyboard
- Logitech First Mouse+ Wheel (PS/2v)

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★ *APC SurgeStation Pro8T2, add $39.*
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- 40X Max^≈ Variable CD-ROM Drive
- Yamaha XG 64V Wavetable Sound
- harman/kardon HK-195 Speakers
- MS Works Suite 99 with Money 99 Basic
- Dell Comfort Key Keyboard
- Logitech First Mouse+ Wheel (PS/2v)
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- Microsoft® Office 97 Small Business Edition v2.0 plus Bookshelf 98 (Call about Our *FREE* MS® Office 2000 Upgrade Offer); McAfee VirusScan
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